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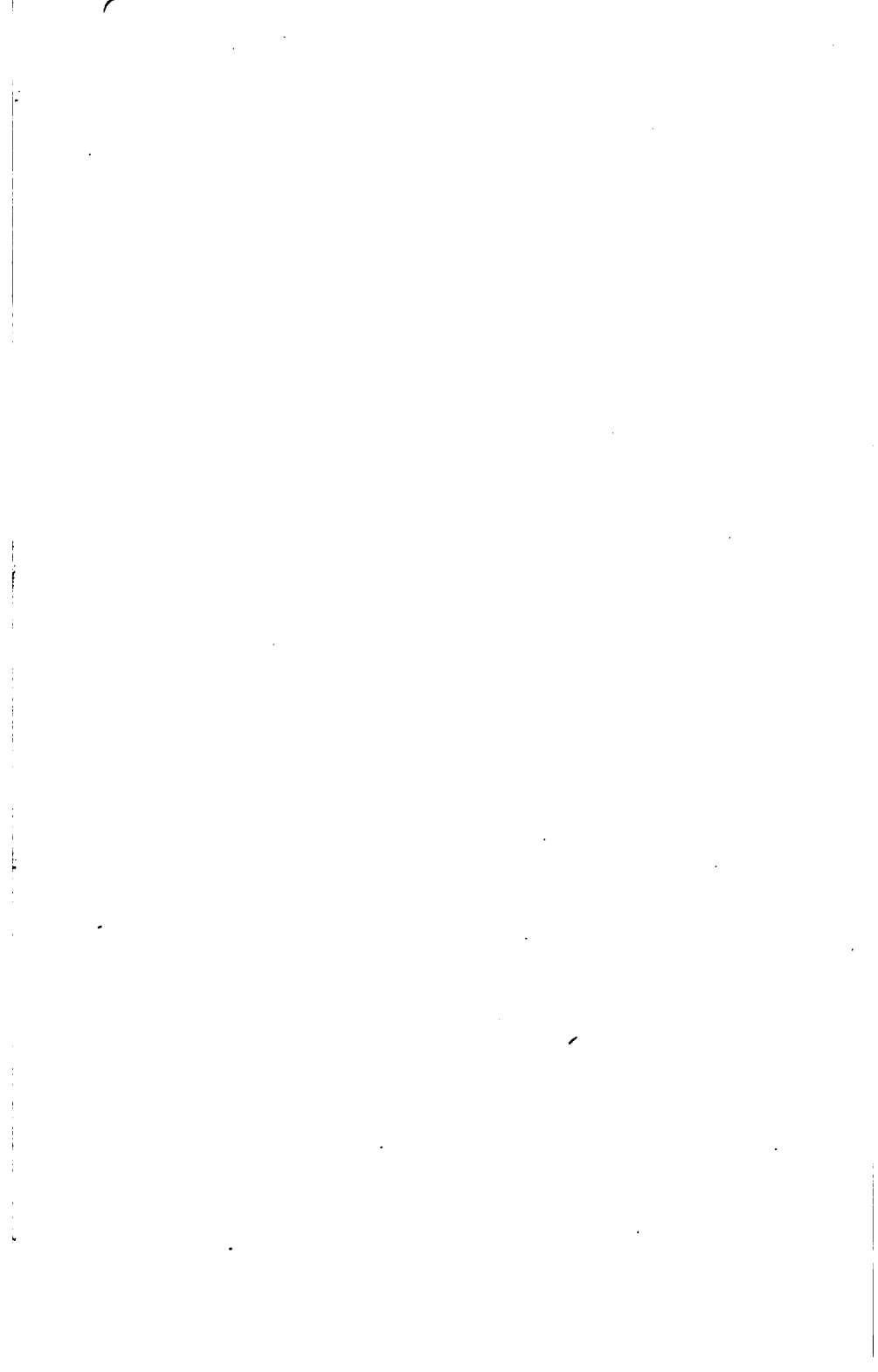
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Chaucer.

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ANIMADVERSIONS

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nowe] reprinted in the  
yere of our lorde

1598

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FRANCIS THYNNE.

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MDCCLXV.

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LE BEL INCONNU, the French version of Giglain, son of Sir Gawain, edited by C. HIPPEAU. *Paris, Aubry*, 6 fr.

MESSIRE GAUVAIN, ou La Vengeance de Raguidel, poëme de la Table Ronde, publié par C. HIPPEAU. *Paris, Aubry*, 6 fr.

Of the *Three Early English Metrical Romances* edited by Mr. ROBSON for the Camden Society, 1842, two are *The Anters of Arther at the Tarnewathelan*, and *The Avowynge of King Arther*.

Animadversions  
upon  
Chaucer's Works.





# Chaucer.

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## ANIMADUERSIONS

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MDCCLXV.



## PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH only the grandson of the first of his name, the author of the following interesting specimen of 16th-century criticism came of a family of great antiquity, of so great an antiquity, indeed, as to preclude our tracing it back to its origin. This family was originally known as the "De Botfelds," but in the 15th century one branch adopted the more humble name of "Thynne," or "of the Inne." Why the latter name was first assumed has never been satisfactorily explained. It can hardly be supposed that "John de la Inne de Botfelde," as he signed himself, kept a veritable hostelry and sold ale and provender to the travellers between Ludlow and Shrewsbury, and most probably the term Inn was used in the sense which has given us "Lincoln's Inn," "Gray's Inn," or "Furnivall's Inn," merely meaning a place of residence of the higher class, though in this case inverted, the Inn giving its name to its owner.

However obtained, the name has been borne by the most successful branch of the De Botfelds down to the present Marquess of Bath, who now represents it. Much interesting matter connected with the family was collected by a late descendant of the older branch, Beriah Botfeld, and published by him in his "*Stemmata Botvilliana*."

The first "John of the Inn" married one Jane Bowdler, by whom he had a son Ralph, who married 'Anne Hygons, and their son William became clerk of the kitchen, and according to some, master of the household to Henry VIII. He

married in the first place a lady who, however she may have advanced her husband's prospects at court, behaved in a manner which must have considerably marred his satisfaction at her success. Those who wish to study the matrimonial sorrows of "Thynnus Aulicus," as he calls him, may consult Erasmus in his *Epistolæ*, lib. xv. *Epist.* xiv.

His second marriage to Anne Bond, daughter of William Bond, clerk of green cloth and master of the household to Henry VIII., was more fortunate, and by her he had daughters and one son, our Francis Thynne.

Though his son gives him no higher position in the court of Henry VIII. than the apparently humble one of clerk of the kitchen, he is careful to let us know that the post was in reality no mean one, and that "there were those of good worship both at court and country" who had at one time been well pleased to be his father's clerks. That he was a man of superior mind there is no question, and we have a pleasant hint in the following tract of his intimacy with his king, and of their mutual fondness for literature. To William Thynne, indeed, all who read the English language are deeply indebted, for to his industry and love for his author we owe much of what we now possess of Chaucer. Another curious bit of literary gossip to be gleaned from this tract is that William Thynne was a patron and supporter of John Skelton, who was an inmate of his house at Erith, whilst composing that most masterly bit of bitter truth, his "Colin Clout," a satire perhaps unsurpassed in our language.

William Thynne rests beside his second wife, in the church of Allhallows, Barking, near the Tower of London, where there are two handsome brasses to their memory. That of William Thynne represents him in full armour with a tremendous dudgeon dagger and broadsword, most warlike guise for a clerk of the kitchen and editor of Chaucer. The dress of his wife is quite refreshing in its graceful comeliness

in these days of revived "farthingales and hoops." These brasses were restored by the late Marquess of Bath. Would that the same good feeling for things old had prevented the owners of the "church property" from casing the old tower with a hideous warehouse.

The Sir John Thynne mentioned in the "*Animadversions*" was most probably a cousin of Francis. He married the daughter of Sir Thomas Gresham, the builder of the Royal Exchange, part of whose wealth was devoted by his son-in-law to the building of the beautiful family seat of Long Leat, in Wiltshire, in which work he was doubtless aided indirectly by the Reformation, for, says the old couplet,

"Portman, Horner, Popham, and Thynne,  
When the monks went out they came in."

Francis Thynne was born in Kent, probably at his father's house at Erith, about 1550. He was educated at Tunbridge school under learned Master Proctor, thence to Magdalen College, Oxford, and then, as the manner was, to the Inns of Court, where he lay at Lincoln's Inn for a while. Some men are born antiquarians as others are born poets, and we may be pretty certain that it was at Thynne's own desire that his court influence was used to procure him the post of "*Blanch Lyon poursuivant*," a position which would enable him to pursue studies, the results of which, however valuable in themselves, but seldom prove capable of being converted into the vulgar necessities of food and raiment. Poor John Stowe, with his license to beg, as the reward of the labour of his life, is a terrible proof of how utterly unmarketable a valuable commodity may become.

Leading a calm and quiet life in the pleasant villages of Poplar and Clerkenwell, in "sweet and studious idleness," as he himself calls it, the old herald was enabled to accumulate rich stores of matter, much of which has come down to

us, principally in manuscript, scattered through various great libraries, which prove him to have deserved Camden's estimate of him as "an antiquary of great judgment and diligence." It would seem that he had entertained the idea of following in his father's footsteps, and of becoming an editor of Chaucer, and that he had even made some collections towards that end. The appearance of Speight's edition probably prevented this idea being carried out, and the evident soreness exhibited in this little tract very probably arose from a feeling that his friend had rather unfairly stolen a march upon him. However the wound was not deep, and Speight made use of Thynne's corrections, and Thynne assisted Speight, in new editions, with all friendship and sympathy.\* I suspect him of dabbling in alchemy and the occult sciences. He shows himself well acquainted with the terms peculiar to those mysteries, and hints that Chaucer only "enveyed" against the "sophisticall abuse," not the honest use of the Arcana. Moreover in the British Museum (MS. add. 11,388) there is a volume containing much curious matter collected by him on these subjects, and not only col-

\* "To the readers. After this booke was last printed, I understand that M. Francis Thynn had a purpose, as indeed he hath when the time shall serve, to set out Chaucer with a coment in our tongue, as the Italians have Petrarke and others in their language. Whereupon I purposed not to meddle any further in this work, although some promise made to the contrarie, but to referre all to him; being a gentleman for that purpose inferior to none, both in regard to his own skill, as also of those helps left to him by his father. Yet notwithstanding, Chaucer now being printed againe I was willing not only to helpe some imperfections, but also to add some things whereunto he did not only persuade me, but most kindly lent me his helpe and direction. By this means most of his old words are restored: proverbes and sentences marked: such Notes as were collected, drawne into better order and the text by olde copies corrected." Speight's Chaucer, 1602.

lected but illustrated by him with most gorgeous colours and wondrous drawing, worthy of the blazonry of a Lancaster Herald. The costumes however are carefully correct, and give us useful hints as to the fashion of the raiment of our ancestors. From the peculiar piety and earnestness (most important elements in the search for the philosopher's stone), of the small "signs" and prayers appended to these papers, it is, I think, clear, that he was working in all good faith and belief. Possibly the following lines, which seem to have been his favourite motto, may have been inspired by the disappointment and dyspepsia produced by his smoky studies and their ill success,

"My strange and froward fate  
Shall turn her whele anew  
To better or to payre my fate,  
Which envy dothe pursue."

On the 22nd of April, 1602, he was with great ceremony advanced to the honour of Lancaster Herald. He never surrendered his patent, and as his successor entered on that post in November, 1608, he is supposed to have died about that date, though some postpone his death till 1611. He married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas de la Rivers of Bransbe, but left no issue.

There are many points of interest to be picked out of the following honest and straightforward bit of criticism, if we examine it closely: and, firstly, as to its author? Is there not something very characteristic in its general tone, something dimly sketching a shadowy outline of a kindly, fussy, busy, querulous old man, much given to tiny minutiae, a careful copier with a clean pen, indefatigable in collecting "contributions" to minor history; one jealous of all appearance of slight to his office, even to being moved to wrath with Master Speight for printing "Harolds" instead of "Harlots," and letting him know how mightily a "Harold" like himself

would be offended at being holden of the condition of so base a thing as False Semblance? Perhaps the more so from a half-consciousness that the glory of the office was declining, and that if the smallest opening were given, a ribald wit might create terrible havock amongst his darling idols. How delicately he snubs Master Speight for not calling on him at Clerkenwell Green (How would Speight have travelled the distance in 1598? It was a long uphill walk for an anti-quarian, and the fields by no means safe from long-staff six-penny strikers); and how modestly he hints that he would have derived no "disparagement" from so doing; showing all the devotion to little matters of etiquette of an amiable but irritable old gentleman of our own day.

But mark this old gentleman's description of his father's collection of Chaucer's MS. ! Had ever a Bibliophile a more delightful commission than that one of William Thynne's, empowering him to rout and to rummage amongst all the monasteries and libraries of England in search of the precious fragments? And had ever a Bibliophile a greater reward for his pleasant toils? "Fully furnished with a multitude of books, emongst which one coppye of some part of his works subscribed in various places 'Examinatur Chaucer'!" Where is this invaluable MS. now? It is worth the tracing, if it be possible, even to its intermediate history. Was it one of those stolen from Francis Thynne's house at Poplar by that bibliomaniacal burglar? or was it one of those which in a fit of generosity, worthy of those heroic times, he gave to Stephen Batemann, that most fortunate parson of Newington? Is this commission to be regarded as some slight proof that the spoliation of the monasteries was not carried on with the reckless Vandalism usually attributed to the reformers?

We learn from this tract that William Thynne left no less than twenty-five copies of Chaucerian MS. to his son, doubtless but a small tything of the entire number extant, showing that



there were men amongst the monks who could enjoy wit and humour even when directed against themselves, and that there must have been some considerable liberality if not laxness of rule amongst the orders of the day. It would, I fancy, be difficult to find amongst the monkeries of our own time (except possibly those belonging to that very cheery order the Capuchines) an abbot inclined to permit his monks to read, much less to copy, so heretical a work as the *Canterbury Tales*, however freely he winked at the introduction of French *nouvellettes*.

But though some may have enjoyed Chaucer in all good faith, there were others who saw how trenchant were the blows he dealt against the churchmen of his time, and what deadly mischief to their pre-eminence lurked under his seeming *bonhomie*. Wolsey thought it worth his while to exert his influence against him so strongly as to oblige William Thynne to alter his plan of publication, though backed by the promised protection of Henry VIII. And the curious action of the Parliament noticed in the tract (p. 7) was doubtless owing to the same influence: an assumption of the right of censure by the Parliament which seems to have gone near to deprive us of Chaucer altogether. The Parliament men were right in regarding the works of Chaucer as mere fables, but they forgot that fables have "morals," and that these morals were directed to the decision of the great question of whether the "spiritual" or the "temporal" man was to rule the world, a question unhappily not quite settled even in our own time.

The notice of that other sturdy reformer, John Skelton

\* Urry, in his Ed. of Chaucer, says that the *Canterbury Tales* were exempt from the prohibition of the Act of 34 Henry VIII. "For the advancement of true religion." I find no notice of this in the Act in the "*Statutes at large*," 1763. He also refers to Foxe's *Acts and Monuments*, which is also merely negative on the subject.

(p. 7) is also very interesting, and gives us a hint of the existence of a "protesting" feeling in the Court of Henry VIII. before there was any reason for attributing it to mere private or political motives. From the way in which it is mentioned here, I suspect that the more general satire "Colin Clout" preceded the more directly personal one of "Why come ye nat to court?" which lashes Wolsey himself with a heartily outspoken virulence which would hardly have been tolerated by him when in the zenith of his power. It was not improbably written whilst its author was safe in sanctuary under Bishop Islip. William Thynne, court favourite though he was, could never have kept Skelton's head on his shoulders after so terrible a provocation.

Wherever he may be placed, John Skelton stands alone amongst satirists, there is no one like him: possibly from a feeling that he was writing on the winning side, and sure of sympathy and protection, he scorns to hide his pearls under a dunghill like Rabelais, and utters fearlessly and openly what he has to say. Even in our own time,

"Though his rime be ragged  
Tattered and iagged  
Rudely rain-beaten  
Rusty and moth-eaten  
*If ye talke well therewyth  
Yt hath in it some pith.*"

Thynne's note on the family of Gower (p. 14) is of value as agreeing with later theories, which deny that Gower the poet was of the Gowers of Stittenham, the ancestors of the present houses of Sutherland and Ellesmere. The question is not, however, finally decided, and we have reason to believe that all the Gowers of Great Britain are descended from the same family of Guers still flourishing in Brittany. Early coat-armours are not much to be depended on, and Thynne as a Herald may lean a little too much towards them. The

question is, however, in good hands, and I hope that before long some fresh light may be thrown upon it.

The old story of Chaucer's having been fined for beating a Franciscan friar in Fleet Street is doubted by Thynne, though hardly, I think, on sufficient grounds. Tradition (when it agrees with our own views) is not lightly to be disturbed, and remembering with what more than feminine powers of invective "spiritual" men seem to be not unfrequently endowed, and also how atrociously insolent a Franciscan friar would be likely to be (of course from the best motives) to a man like Chaucer, who had burnt into the very soul of monasticism with the caustic of his wit, I shall continue to believe the legend for the present. If the mediæval Italians are to be believed, the cudgelling of a friar was occasionally thought necessary even by the most faithful, and I see no reason why hale Dan Chaucer should not have lost his temper on sufficient provocation. Old men have hot blood sometimes, and Dickens does not outrage probability when he makes Martin Chuzzlewit the elder, fell Mr Pecksniff to the ground.

Much of the tract is taken up by corrections of etymologies, and the explanation of obscure and obsolete words. It is a little curious that the word "orfrayes," which had gone so far out of date as to be unintelligible to Master Speight, should, thanks to the new rage for church and clergy decoration, have become reasonably common again. The note on the "Vernacle" is another bit of close and accurate antiquarian knowledge worth noting. It is most tantalizing that after all he says about that mysterious question of "The Lords son of Windsor," a question as mysterious as that demanding why Falstalf likened Prince Henry's father to a "singing man" of the same place, we should be left as wise as we were before. We have here and there, too, hints as to what we have lost from Thynne's great

storehouse of information; how valuable would have been "that long and no common discourse" which he tells us he might have composed on that most curious form of judicial knavery, the ordeal; and possibly much more so is that of his "collections" for his edition of Chaucer! This last may, however, be still recovered by some fortunate literary mole.

The notice, by no means clear, but certainly not complimentary, of "the second editione to one inferior personne, than my father's editione was," may refer to any of the editions of Chaucer which, according to Lowndes, were printed more or less from William Thynne's edition in 1542, 1546, and 1555; but from another passage hinting that Speight followed "a late English corrector whom I forbear to name," I suspect that the "inferior personne" was poor John Stowe, and the edition to have been that edited by him in 1561, the nearest in point of date to that of Speight.

The manuscript from which this tract is reprinted is, like most of the treasures of the Bridgewater Library, wonderfully clean and in good order. It is entirely in the Autograph of Francis Thynne, and was evidently written purposely for the great Lord Chancellor Egerton, and bears his arms emblazoned on the title-page. Master Speight most probably got *his* copy of *Animadversions* in a more humble form.

In conclusion may I remark that, as usual, the green silk ribands, originally attached to the vellum and gold cover, are closely cut away, probably for the purpose of being converted into shoe-ties, which Robert Green informs us was the usual destination of those appended to presentation copies, hinting at the same time that they were generally the only solid advantage gained by the dedicatee from the honour done him.

## LIST OF THYNNE'S WORKS.

1. The perfect Ambassador, treating of the Antiquity, Privileges, and Behaviour of men belonging to that Function. 12mo, 1651 & 1652.  
(This was first published in 1651 under the title "The application of certain histories concerning Ambassadors and their functions." The title-page only is new. MS. note by Bliss. British Museum, 8005—a.)
2. Annals of Scotland, in some part continued from the time in which Ra. Holinshead left, being an. 1571 unto the year 1586. London, 1586. fol.
3. "There are also the catalogues of the Protectors, Governors, or Regents of Scotland during the King's minority, or the minority of several kings, or their insufficiency of government. There are also the catalogues of all Dukes of Scotland by creation or descent, of the Chancellors of Scotland; Archbishops of St Andrews and divers writers of Scotland." *A. a' Wood.*
4. Catalogue of English Cardinals set down in R. Holinshead's Chronicle at the end of Q. Mary.
5. "A Discourse of Arms," dated "Clerkenwell Grene, 5th of Jan., 1593." MS. in the College of Arms.
6. "Catalogue of the Chancellors of England." MS. in the Bridgewater Library.
7. "Collections for the History of England." MS. in Bridgewater Library.
8. Animadversions on Speight's Chaucer, MS. in Bridgewater Library.
9. Several Collections of Antiquities. Notes concerning

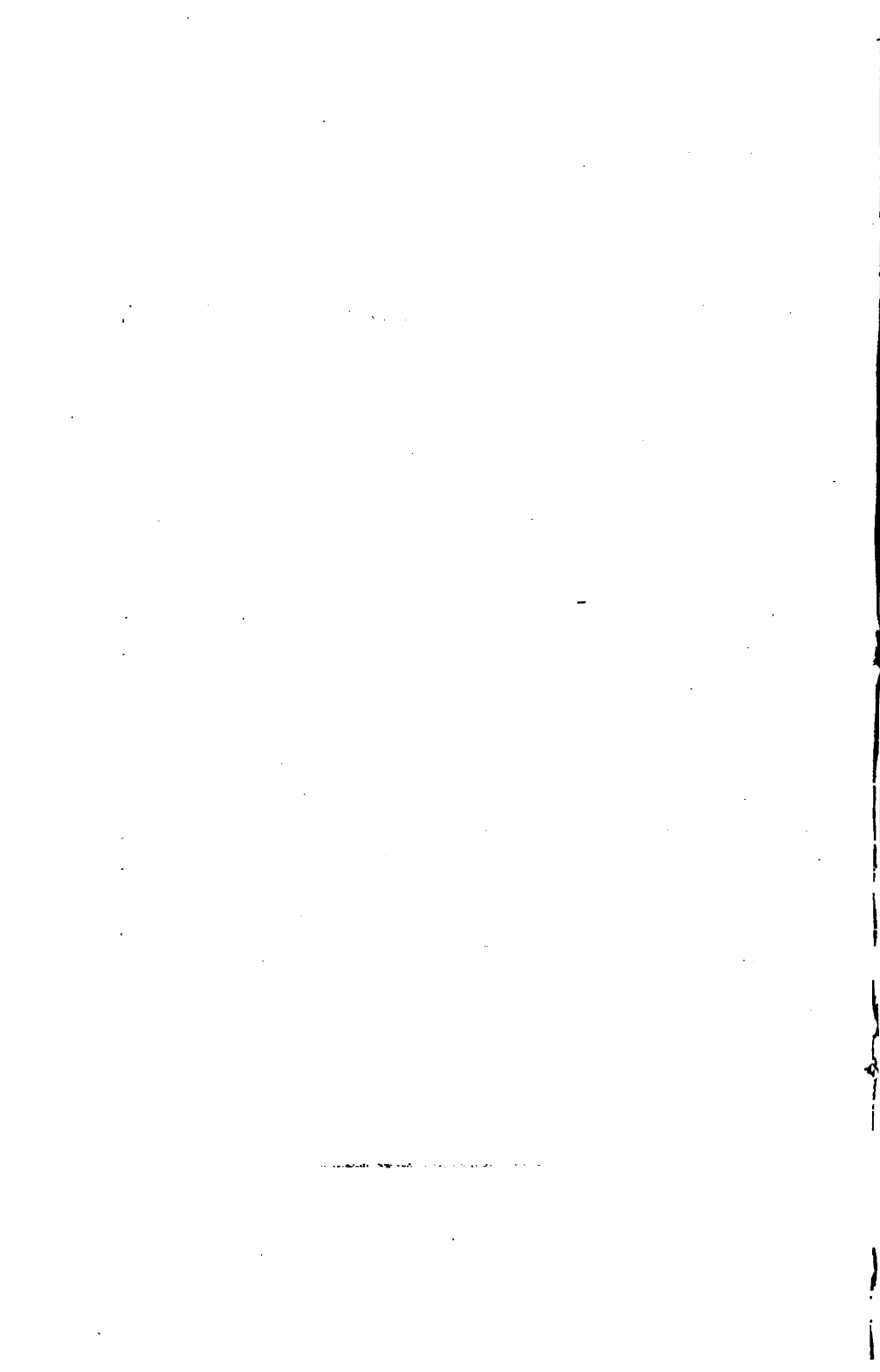
- ! Arms, monumental Antiquities, &c. MS. Cotton's Lib. Cleopatra, C. 3. p. 62.
10. A discourse of the duty and office of a Herald of Arms, ad. 1605. MS. Bib. Ashmol. n. 835.
  11. Missellanies of the Treasury. MS. 1599.
  12. Matters concerning Heralds, and Tryal of Armes and the Court Military. MS. Bib. Ashmol. 12 (printed in Hearne's Collection of Curious Discourses).
  13. Names of the Earls Marshall of England, A.D. 1601. MS. Bib. Ashmol. 1374.
  14. Epitaphia. Sive monumenta Sepulchrorum Anglici et Latini quam gallice. MS.  
 "In the castrations to Hollingshed's Chronicles are the four following discourses by this Author, which were suppressed from political motives, they have been added to the late quarto Edition."
  15. The Collection of the Earls of Leicester, compiled in 1585.
  16. The lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury, written in 1586.
  17. Treatise of the Lord Cobham. (Is this the "Lives of the Lords Cobham of Cobham, Randale and Harborough," British Mus. MS. add. 12,514. f. 56 ?)
  18. The catalogue of the Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports, and constables of Dover Castle, as well in the time of King Edward surnamed the Confessor, as since the reign of the conqueror." MS. 1585 (Was in the library of More, Bishop of Eley, and now in the British Museum. MS. add. 12,514).
  19. Of Stirling Money.
  20. Of what antiquity shires were in England.
  21. Of the antiquity and etymology of terms and fines for administration of justice in England.
  22. Of the antiquity of the houses of Law.

23. Of Epitaphs.
24. On the antiquity, &c., of the high Steward of England.
25. The antiquity and office of Earl Marshall. (These last seven are printed in "Hearne's Curious Discourses." 8vo, 1775.)
26. Discourse of bastards. Brit. Mus. MS. add. 4176, fol. 139.
27. The Plea between the advocate and the anti-advocate concerning the Bath and Batchelor Knights. Brit. Mus. MS. add. 12,530.
28. Annals of England. Mus. Brit. MS. add. 926, 1017, 12,514.
29. The kinges book of all the border Knyghtes, Squiers, and gentlemen of this realm of England, by Francis Thynne, 1601, MS. Mus. Brit. MSS. add. 11,388.

(The same volume contains much curious matter collected and illustrated by Thynne—principally bearing on the philosopher's stone. The principal paper is a rhyming Latin poem, "De Phenicæ sive de Lapide Philosophico," referred to in the tract.)

Collections out of Domus Regni Angliæ. Nomina Episcoporum in Somerset. Nomina Saxonica de Donatoribus a Regibus Eadfrido, Eadgare et Edwardo, Catalogus Episcoporum, Barton and Wells. A book of collections and commentaries de historia et Rebus Britannicis.

Collections out of manuscript, Historians Registers of Abbies, Leger books, and other antient manuscripts.





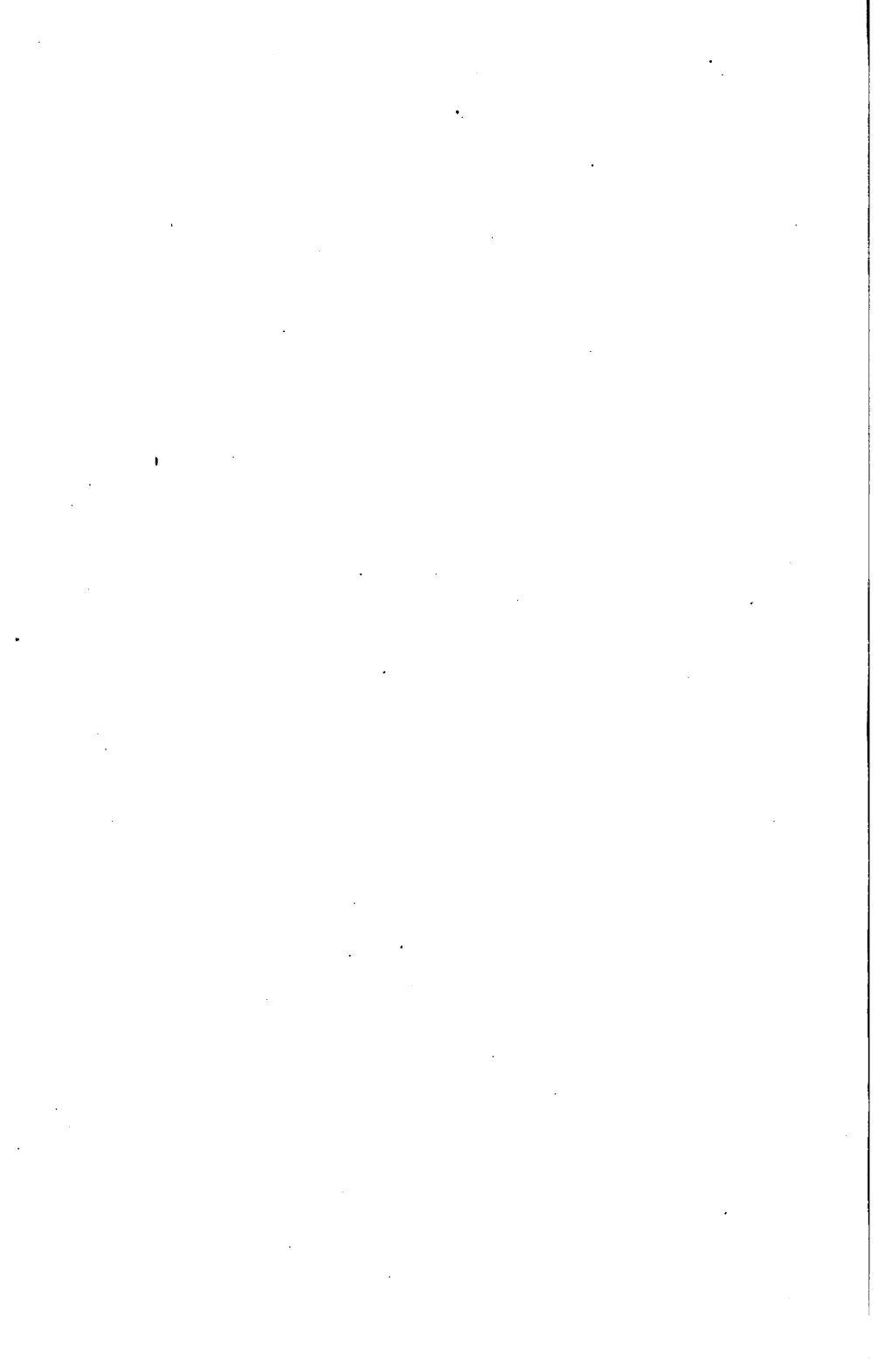
## 9. CHAUCER. THYNNE'S ANIMADVERSIONS.

To the list of Thynne's Works, p. xiii.—xv., add his "Emblemes and Epigrams." MS. in the Bridgewater Library.

Page 22, l. 15, for *meanyuge* read *meanynge*.

Page 32, l. 16, l. 25; p. 50, l. 25, 26, 31, 32, the Anglo-Saxon thorn (þ) is printed for the *r* (j).

The [ ]s of the text represent Thynne's parentheses. The words "now *newly* edited" on the title, which imply that the text had been previously edited, have been misunderstood by some persons to mean that Todd had *not* edited the tract before. His name was only not mentioned because comment on his edition was not thought desirable, and it was assumed that every student of Chaucer knew of the existence of Todd's book.



## ANIMADVERSIONS.

TO THE RIGHTE HONORABLE HIS SINGULAR GOODE LORDE  
SIR THOMAS EGERTONE KNIGHTE LORDE KEPER OF  
THE GREATE SEALE AND MASTER OF THE ROOLES  
OF THE CHANCERYE.

It was [Ryghte honorable and my verye good lorde] one annciente and gretlye estemed custome amongste the Romans in the heighe of their glorye, that eche one, accordinge to their abylytye or the desarte of his frende, did in the begynnyng of the monthe of Januarye [consecrated to the dooble faced godd Janus one the fyrste daye whereof they made electione of their cheife officers and magystrates] presente somme gyfte unto his frende as the noote and pledge of the continued and encreased amytye betwene them, a pollicye gretlye to be regarded, for the manye good effectes whiche issue from so woorthye cause. This custome not restinge in the lymyttes of Italye, but spredinge with the Romans [as did their language and many other their usages and lawes] into euerye perticuler Countrye where theyr powre and gouernemente stretched. passed also ouer the Oceane into the litle worlde of Brytannye, being neuer exiled from thence, nor frome those, whome eyther honor, amytye, or dutye doth combyne. ffor whiche cause lest I myghte offende in the breche of that moste excellent and yet embraced

Custome, I thynke yt my parte to presente unto your Lordship suche poore neweyeres gyfte as my weake estate and the barrennesse of my feble skyll will permitte: Wherefore, and because Cicero affirmethe, that he whiche hathe once ouer passed the frontiers of modestye must for euer after be impudente, [a grounde whiche I fynde fully veryfyed in my selfe, havinge once before outgonne the boundes of shamefastnesse in presentinge to your Lordshippe my confused collections and disordered discourse of the Chauncelors]\* I ame nowe become utterlye impudente in not blussinge to salute you agayne [in the begynnyng of this newe yere] with my petye animadversions, upon the annotacions and corrections delivered by Master Thomas Speghte upon the last editione of Chaucer's workes in the yere of oure redemptione 1598; thinges [I confesse] not so answerable to your Lordshippes iudgmente, and my desyre, as boothe your desarte and my dutye doo challenge. But althoughe they doo not in all respectes satisfye youre Lordshippes expectacione and my goode will, [accordinge as I wyshe they sholde], yet I dobt not but your lordshippe [not degeneratinge from youre former curtesye wontinge to accompanye all youre actions] will accepte these trifles from your lovinge well-willer, in suche sorte, as I shall acknowledge myselfe beholdinge and endebedt to your Lordshippe for the same. whiche I hoope your Lordshippe will the rather doo [with pardonyng my presumptione] because you haue, by the former good acceptance of my laste booke, emboldened me to make tryall of the lyke acceptance of this pamflette. Wherefore yf your Lordshippe shall receve yt curteouslye [and so not to dischorage

\* "The names and Armes of the Chancellors collected into one Catalogue by Francis Thynn declaring the yeres of the reignes of the kinges and the yere of our Lorde in whiche they possessed that office."—Folio MS. Bridgewater Library.

mee in my sweete and studiouse idlenesse] I will here-  
after consecrate to your lykinge some better labor of  
moore momente and higher subiecte, answerable to the  
excellencye of your iudgemente, and mete to declare  
the fulnesse of the dutyfull mynde and service I beare  
and owe unto your Lordshippe, to whome in all reuer-  
ence I commytte this simple treatyce. Thus [withe  
hartye prayer comendinge youre estate to the Almightye  
[who send to your

Lordshippe manye happye

and helthfull yeres

and to me the

enlarged

continuanee of

your honorable fauor]

I humblye take my leave.

Clerkenwell grene

the xx of

December

1599.

Your Lordshippes wholye to

dyspose,

Francis Thynne.

TO MASTER THOMAS SPEIGHTE ff Francis Thynn  
sendeth greeting.

THE INDUSTRYE AND LOVE [MASTER  
SPEIGHT] whiche you haue used, and beare, uppon  
and to oure famous poete Geffrye Chaucer, deseruethe  
bothe comendatione and furtherance: the one to re-  
compense your trauayle, the other to accomplyshe the  
duetye, whiche we all beare [or at the least yf we  
reuerence lernynge or regarde the honor of oure Coun-  
trye, sholde beare] to suche a singuler ornâmente of  
oure tonge, as the woorkes of Chaucer are: Yet since  
there is nothinge so fullye perfected, by anye one,

The author is vex-  
ed that Master  
Speight did not  
consult him on his  
new edition of  
Chaucer.

whereine some imperfeciōne maye not bee founde, [for as the prouerbe is Bernardus, or as others have Alanus, non videt omnia,] you must be contented to gyve me leave in discharge of the duetye and love whiche I beare to Chaucer, [whome I suppose I have as great intereste to adorne withe my smale skyll as anye other hath, in regarde that the laborious care of my father made hym most acceptable to the worlde in correctinge and augmentinge his woorkes,] to enter into the examinatiōne of this newe editione, and that the rather, because you with *Horace* his verse “si quid novisti rectius istis, candidus imperti,” have willed all others to further the same, and to accepte your labors in good parte, whiche as I most willingly doo, so meaninge but well to the worke, I ame to lett you understande my conceyte thereof, whiche before this, yf you wolde have vouchesafed my howse, or have thoughte me worthy to have byn acqueynted with these matters, [whiche you might well have donne without anye whatsoeuer dispargement to yourselfe,] you sholde haue understoode before the impressiōne, althoughe this whiche I here write ys not nowe uppon selfe will or found conceyte to wrangle for one asses shadowe, or to seke a knott in a rushe, but in frendlye sorte to bringe truthe to lighte, a thinge whiche I wolde desire others to use towardes mee in whatsoeuer shall fall oute of my penne. Wherefore I will here shewe such thinges as, in mye opynione, may seme to be touched, not medlinge withe the seconde editione to one inferior personne then my fathers editione was.

Also vexed at a side blow at his father's edition, and justifies him as editor.

Ffyrste in your forespeche to the reader, you saye “secondly the texte by written copies corrected” by whiche worde corrected, I maye seme to gather, that you imagine greate imperfeciōne in my fathers editione, whiche peraduenture maye move others to saye [as some unadvisedlye have sayed] that my father had

wronged Chaucer : wherefore to stoppe that gappe, I will answer, that Chaucers woorkes haue byn sitheus printed twyce, yf not thrice, and therefore by oure carelesse [and for the most parte unlearned] printers of Englande, not so well performed as yt ought to bee : so that of necessitye bothe in matter, myter and meaninge, yt must needes gather corruptione, passinge through so manye handes, as the water dothe the further yt runneth from the pure founteyne. To enduce me and all others to iudge his editione [whiche I thinke you neuer sawe wholy together, beinge fyrst printed but in one coolume in a page, whereof I will speake hereafter] was the perfectest : ys the earnest desire and love my father hadde to haue Chaucers woorkes rightlye to be publyshed. for the performance whereof, my father not onlye used the helpe of that lerned and eloquent knight and antiquarye Sir Briane Tuke, but had also made greate serche for copies to perfecte his woorkes, as apperethe in the ende of the squiers tale, in his editione printed in the yere 1542 ; but further had comission to serche all the libraries of Englande for Chaucers works, so that oute of all the Abbies of this Realme [whiche reserved anye monumentes thereof] he was fully furnished with multitude of Bookes. amongst whiche one coppye of some parte of his woorkes came to his handes subscribed in diuers places withe "examinatur Chaucer." By this Booke, and conferringe manye of the other written copies together, he deliuered his editione, fullye corrected, as the amendementes under his hande, in the fyrst printed booke that euer was of his woorkes [beinge stamped by the fyrste impressione that was in Englande] will well declare, at what tyme he added manye thinges whiche were not before printed, as you nowe haue donne soome, of whiche I ame perswaded [and that not withoute reasone] the origin-

His father's collection of MS. Chaucers and their curiosity.

The Pilgrime's  
Tale telling forth  
the evil lives of  
churchmen.

all came from mee. In *whiche* his editione, beinge printed but with one coolume in a syde, there was the pilgrymes tale, a thinge moore odious to the Clergye, then the speche of the plowmanne; that pilgrimes tale begynnynge in this sorte;

"In Lincolneshyre fast by a fenne,  
Standes a religious howse who doth yt kenne," &c.

In this tale did Chaucer most bitterlye enveye against the pride, state, couetousness, and extorcione of the Bysshoppes, their officialls, archdeacons, vicars generalls, comissaryes, and other officers of the spirituall courte. The *inventiōe* and order whereof [as I have herde yt related by some nowe of good-worshippe bothe in courte and countrie but then my fathers clerkes,] was, that one comynge into this religious howse, walked upp and down the church, beholdinge goodlye pictures of Bysshoppes in the windowes, at lengthe the manne contynuyng in that contemplatione, not knowinge what Bysshoppes they were, a grave olde manne withe a longe white hedde and berde, in a large blacke garment girded unto hym, came forthe and asked hym, what he iudged of those pictures in the windowes; who sayed he knewe not what to make of them, but that they looked lyke unto our mitred Bysshoppes; to whome the olde father replied, yt is true, they are like, but not the same, for oure bysshoppes are farr degenerate from them, and withe that, made a large discourse of the Bysshoppes and of their courtes.

William Thynne  
in favour with  
Henry VIII.,  
who promiseth  
to countenance  
him.

This tale when kinge henrye the eighte had redde, he called my father unto hym sayinge Williame Thynne I dobte this will not be allowed, for I suspecte the Bysshoppes will call the in questione for yt, to whome my father, beinge in great fauore with his prince, [as manye yet lyvinge canne testyfy,) sayed yf *your* grace be not offended, I hoope to be protected by *you*, whereuppon the kinge bydd hym goo his waye and feare not. All



whiche not withstandinge, my father was called in question by the Bysshoppes and heaved at by cardinall Wolseye his olde enymye, for manye causes, but mostly for that my father had furthered Skelton to publishe his Collen Cloute againste the Cardinall, the moste parte of whiche Booke was compiled in my fathers howse at Erithe in Kente. But for all my fathers frendes, the Cardinalls perswadinge auctorytye was so greate withe the kinge, that thoughte by the kinges favor my father escaped bodelye daunger, yet the Cardinall caused the kinge so muche to myslyke of that tale, that chaucer must be newe printed and that discourse of the pilgrymes tale lefte oute, and so beinge printed agayne, some thynges were forsed to be omitted, and the plowmans tale [supposed, but untrulye, to be made by olde Sir Thomas Wyat, father to hym which was executed in the firste yere of Quene Marye, and not by Chaucer,] with muche ado permitted to passe with the reste, in suche sorte that in one open parliamente [as I have herde St. Johne Thynne reporte, beinge then a member of the howse,] when talke was had of Bookes to be forbidden, chaucer had there for euer byn condempned, had yt not byn that his woorkes had byn counted but fables. Whereunto yf you will repleye, that their colde not be any suche pilgrymes tale, because Chaucer in his prologues makethe not mentione of anye suche persoune, whiche he wolde haue doune yf yt had byn so: for after that he had recyted the knyghte, the squyer, the squiers yeomane, the prioresse, her noone, and her thre prests, the monke, the fryer, the marchant, the clerke of Oxenforde, seriante at the lawe, franckleyne, haberdassher, goldsmythe, webbe, dyer and tapyster, cooke, shypmane, Doctor of physecke, wyfe of Bathe, parsoune and plowmane, he sayeth at the end of the plowmans prologue,

The promise broken through the power of Wolsey.

The most part of Colin Clout written at William Thynne's house at Erith.

Chaucer's works like to be destroyed by parliament.

Reasons why the Pilgrime's Tale should be Chaucer's.

There was also a Reue, and a Millere  
 A sumpneure, and a Pardoner  
 A manciple and my selfe there was no mo.

All whiche make xxx persons with Chaucer : wherefore yf there had byn anye moore, he wolde also haue re-cyted them in those verses, whereunto I answeere, that in the prologes he lefte oute some of those *whiche* tolde their tales ; as the chanous yomane, because he came after that they were passed out of theyre Inne, and did overtake them, as in lyke sorte this pilgrime did or mighte doo, and so afterwarde be one of their companye, as was that chanous yeomane, althoughe Chaucer talke no moore of this pilgrime in his prologe then he doothe of the chanous yeomane ; whiche I dobte not wolde fullye appere, yf the pilgrimes prologe and tale mighte be restored to his former light they being nowe looste, as manye other of Chaucers tales were before that, as I am induced to thinke by manye reasons.

How William  
 Thynne's collec-  
 tion of Chaucer's  
 MS. was dis-  
 persed abroad.

But to leave this, I must saye that in those many written Bookes of Chaucer, *whiche* came to my fathers hands, there were manye false cotypes, whiche Chaucer shewethe in writinge of Adam Scriuener, [as you have noted] of whiche written copies there came to me after my fathers deathe some fyve and twentye ; whereof some had moore and some fewer tales, and some but two and some three. *whiche* bookes beinge by me [as one nothinge dobting of this whiche is nowe donne for Chaucer] partly dispersed aboute xxvj years agoo, and partlye stoolen out of my howse at Popler : I gave divers of them to Stephen Batemanne person of Newington, and to divers other, whiche beinge copies unperfected and some of them corrected by my fathers hande yt maye happen soome of them to coome to some of *your* frendes handes, whiche I knowe yf I see agayne : and yf by anye suche written copies you have corrected Chaucer, *you* maye as well offende as

seme to do good. But I judge the beste, for in dobtes I will not resolve with a settled judgement, althoughe you may iudge this tediousse discourse of my father a needlesse thinge in setting forth his diligence in breaking the yce, and givinge lighte to others, who may moore easely perfecte then begyne any thinge, for *facilius est addere quam Invenire*, and so to other matters.

Under the tittle of chaucers countaye,\* you seme to make yt probable that Richarde Chaucer vinetener of Londone, was Geffrye Chaucers father, But I holde that no moore then that Johne Chaucer of Londone, was father to Richarde ; of whiche Johne I fynde in the recordes in Dorso Rolulor patent. 24 de anno 30. Ed. 1. in the towre. that kinge Edward the firste had herde the compleinte of Johne chaucer of London, who was beaten and hurte, to the domage of one thousand pownde [that some amountinge at this daye to thre thowsande pownde ;] for whiche a comissione went forth to enquire thereof. wherbye yt semethe that he was of some Reconyng. But as I cannott saye that Johne was father to Richarde, or hee to Geffroye : So yet this muche I will deliuer in settinge downe the antiquytye of the name of chaucer, that his anncesters [as you well coniecture] were strangers, as the etymon of his name [beinge frenche in Englishe synyfyinge one who shueth or hooseth a manne] dothe prove, for that dothe the Etymon of this worde chausier presente unto us, of whiche name I have founde [besides the former recyted Johne] on Elias chauseryr lyvinge in the tyme of Henrye the thirde and of Edward the firste, of whome the record of *pellis exitus* in the receyte of the Exchequier in the firste yere of Edward ye firste hathe thus noted : "*Edwardus dei gratia &c. Liberate de thesauro Nostro Elie chauseryr decem*

He differeth from Master Speight on Chaucer's family.

Chausier, one who hooseth or shueth a man.

\* Error for family ?

solidos super arreragia trium obulorum diurnorum quos ad vitam suam per litteras domini. H. Regis patris nostri, percepit ad scaccarium nostrum. datum per manum Walleri Merton cancellarii nostri apud Westminsterium 24 Julii anno regni nostri primo." with whiche carractres ys Geffry Chausyer written in the Recordes in the tyme of Edward the thirde and Richarde the seconde. So that yt was a name of office or occupation, whiche after came to be the surname of a famelye, as did Smythe, Baker, Porter, Bruer, Skynner, Cooke, Butler, and suche lyke, and that yt was a name of office apperethe in the recordes of the towre, where yt is named Le Chaucer, beinge more annciente then anye other of those recordes; for in Dorso clause of 10: H. 3 ys this: Reginaldus mirifir<sup>r</sup> et alicia uxor eius attornaverunt Radulfum le Chausier contra Johannem Le furber et matildem uxorem eius de uno messuagio in London. This chaucer lyvinge also in the time of kinge John. And thus this muche for the Antiquyte and synificatione of Chaucer, whiche I canne prove in the tyme of Edward the 4 to signyfy also, in oure Englishe tonge, bootes or highe shoes to the calfe of the legge: for thus hathe the Antique recordes of Domus Regni Anglie, ca. 53 for the messengers of the kinges howse to doo the kings comanndementes: that they shalbe allowed for their Chauses yerely iiij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>: But what shall wee stande uppon the Antiquyte and gentry of Chaucer, when the rolle of Battle Abbeye affirmeth hym to come in with the Conquerer. Under the title of Chaucers countrye, yow sett downe that some Heraldes are of opyny-one that he did not discende of any great howse; whiche they gather by his armes. This ys a slender coniecture, for as honorable howses and of as greate Antiquyte haue borne as meane armes as Chaucer, and yet Chaucers armes are not so meane eyther for

Chaucer his arms  
injustly under-  
valued.

coolor, chardge or particione as some will make them. And where you saye, yt semethe lykelye, Chaucers skill in Geometrye considered, that he tooke the groundes and reasons of his armes oute of seuen twentye and eight and twentye propositiones of Euclide's first booke, that ys no inference that his armes were newe or fyrst assumed by hym oute of Geometricall proportions, because he was skylfull in Geometrye: for so you maye saye of all the auncient armes of England *whiche* consyste not of anymallis or vegetalls. for all other armes *whiche* are not Anymalls and vegetalls, as Cheuerons, pales, Bendes, Checkes, and suche lyke, stande uppon geometricall proportiones. And therfore howe greate so euer their skyl bee, which attribute that choyce of armes to Chaucer *they* had no moore skyle in armes then they needed.

In the same title also, you sett downe Quene Isabell, &c. and her sonne prince Edwarde withe his newe married wyfe retourned oute of Henalte. In *whiche* are two unperfeciōns. the first whereof ys, that his wyfe came oute of Henalte *with* the prince. but that is not soo, for the prince maryed her not before he came into England, since the prince was onlye slenderly contracted and not maryed to her before his arryvall in Englande, beinge two yeres and moore after that contracte, [betwene the erle of henalt and his mother,] about the latter ende of the seconde yere of his reigne, thoughe others haue the firste, the solempnytye of that mariage beinge donne at Yorke. besides she came not ouer with Quene Isabell and the prince, but the prince sent for her afterwarde, and so I suppose sayeth Hardinge in his cronicle, yf I do not mysconceve yt, not havinge the historye now in my handes. But whether he saye so or no, yt ys not materiall, because the recordes be playne, that he sent for her into Henalte in the seconde yere of his reigne

Philippa of Henault came not over with Prince Edward.

Bartholomew de  
Burgershe sent for  
Philippa of Hen-  
nault.

in october, and she came to the kinge the 23 of Januarye followinge, *whiche* was aboute one daye before he beganne the thirde yere of his reigne, wherunto he entred the 25 of Januarye. and for prooffe of the tyme when and whoome the Kinge sente, and what they were allowed therefore, the *pellis exitus* of the Exchequier remayninge in master warders office hathe thus sett downe to the forthe daye of februarye "Bartholomeo de Burgershe nuper misso ad partes Douor ad obuiandum filiae comitis Hannoniae consorti ipsius Regis &c. but this recorde followinge is most pleyne, shewing bothe who went for her, the day when they tooke their yourneye towardes henalte, with the daye when and where they presented her to the kinge after their retorne into Englande, and the daye one *whiche* they wer payed their charges, beinge the forthe of marche one *whiche* daye yt is thus entred in the records of *pellis exitus*, Michaell. 2. ed. 3. Rogero couentry &c Lichefeld episcopo nuper misso in nuntium domini Regis ad partes Hannoniae pro matrimonio inter dominum Regem et filiam comitis Hannoniae contrahendo, ab octavo die octobris proxime preterito, quo die reessit de Notingham ipso domino Rege ibidem existente, arripiendo iter suum predictum, versus partes predictas, usque vicesimum tertium diem Januarii proxime sequentem, quo die rediit ad ipsum Regem predictum apud Eborum in comitatu filiae comitis Hannoniae predictae utroque die computato pro ciiij diebus percipiendo per diem iij.<sup>11</sup> vj.<sup>8</sup> viij.<sup>4</sup> pro expensis suis." Thus muche the recorde, *whiche* confirmethe that *whiche* I go aboute to prove, that she came not into Englande with prince Edward, and that he was not maryed at that tyme, no, not contracted, but only by agremente betwene the erle and his mother. Next you seme to implye by a coniecturall argumente, that Chaucers auncesters sholde be merchants, for that in

The conjecture  
that Chaucer's  
ancestors were  
merchants, of no  
valdytys.

place where they haue dwelled the armes of the marchantes of the staple haue bin seene in the glasse windowes. This ys a mere coniecture, and of no valydytye. For the marchantes of the staple had not any armes granted to them [as I haue bin enformed] vntill longe after the deathe of Chaucers parentes, *whiche* was aboute the 10 or 12 of Edwarde the thirde; and those merchantes had no armes before the tyme of Henrye the sixte, or muchewhat thereabouts, as I dobt not but wilbe well proued, yf I be not mysenformed. But admytte the staplers had then armes, yt ys no argumente that chaucers auncesters were merchantes because those armes were in the wyndowes, as you shall well perceave, yf you drawe yt into a syllogisme, and therefore you did well to conclude, that yt was not materiall whether they were merchants or noo.

In the title of Chaucer's educatione, you saye that Gower in his booke entituled *confessio amantis* termethe Chaucer a worthye poet, and maketh hym as yt were the iudge of his woorkes; in *whiche* Booke, to my knowledge, Gower dothe not terme hym a worthye poet, [althoughe I confesse he well deserueth that name, and that the same may be gathered oute of Gower comendynge hym,] nether doth he after a sorte [for any thinge I canne yet see] make hym iudge of his woorkes, [whereof I wolde be glad to be enformed,] since these be Gowers woordes, vttered by Venus in that booke of *confessio Amantis*:

Master Speight  
misquoteth  
Gower.

And grete well Chaucer when ye mete,  
As my disciple and my poet:  
for in the flowere of his youthe,  
In sondry wise, as he well couthe,  
of dytyes and of songes glade  
the *whiche* for my sake he made,  
the laude fulfilled is ouer all:  
wherefore to hym in especiall  
aboue all others I am most holde;

for thy nowe in his dayes olde,  
 thow shalt hym tell this message,  
 that he vppon his latter age  
 sett an ende of all his werke,  
 as he whiche is myne owne clerke  
 do make his *testament of Love*,  
 as thow hast done thy shrift above,  
 so that my Courte yt may recorde, &c.

Chaucer submit-  
 teth his works to  
 Gower, not Gower  
 to Chaucer.

These be all the verses *whiche* I knowe or yet canne  
 fynde, in *whiche* Gower in that booke mentioneth  
 Chaucer, where he nether nameth hym *worthye* poet,  
 nor after a sorte submyttethe his workes to his iudg-  
 mente. But quite contrarye Chaucer doth submytte  
 the correctione of his woorks to Gower in these playne  
 woordes, in the latter ende of the fyfte booke of  
 Troylus :

O Morall Gower, this booke I directe  
 To the, and the philosophicall stroode,  
 To vouchesafe where nede is to correcte  
 Of your benignities and zeales good.

Gower the poet  
 was not of the  
 Gowers (or Gores)  
 of Stittenham.

But this error had in you byn pardoned, yf you had  
 not sett yt downe as your owne, but warranted with  
 the auctorytye of Bale in *Scriptoribus Anglie*, from  
 whence you haue swallowed yt. Then in a marginall  
 note of this title you saye agayne oute of Bale, that  
 Gower was a Yorkshire manne ; but you are not to  
 be touched therefore, because you discharge *your* selfe  
 in vouching *your* auctor. Wherefore Bale hath mucche  
 mistaken yt, as he hath donne infynyte thinges in that  
 Booke de *scriptoribus Anglie*, beinge for the most  
 parte the collections of Lelande. For in truth *your*  
 armes of this S<sup>r</sup> Johne Gower beinge argent one a  
 cheuerone azure, three leopardes heddes or, do prove  
 that he came of a contrarye howse to the Gowers of  
 Stytenham in Yorkeshyre, who bare barrulye of argent  
 and gules a crosse patye-florye sable. Whiche difference



of armes semethe a difference of famelyes, vnlesse you canne prove that, beinge of one howse, they altered their armes vppone some iuste occasione, as that soome of the howse maryinge one heyre did leave his owne armes and bare the armes of his moother; as was accustomed in tymes paste. But this difference of Cootes for this cause, or anye other, [that I colde yet euer lerne,] shall you not fynde in this famelye of Gower: and therefore seuerall howses from the fyrst originall. Then the marginall note goeth further out of Bale, that Gower had one his hedde a garlande of iuye and rooses, the one the ornamente of a knyghte, the other of a poet. But Bale ys mystaken, for yt ys not a garlande, vnlest you will metaphoricallye call euerye cyrcle of the hedde a garlande as Crownes are sometymes called garlandes, from whence they had their originall, nether ys yt of Iuye, as any manne whiche seethe-yt may well iudge, and therefore not there sett for anye suche intente as an ensigne of his poetrye, but ys symplye a chapplett of Roses, suche as the knyghtes in olde tyme vsed ether of golde, or other embroderye, made after the fasshone of Roses, one of the peculier ornamentes of a knyghte, as well as his collar of SSS, his guilte swoorde, and spurres. Whiche chapplett or cyrcle of Rooses was as well attributed to knights, the lowest degree of honor, as to the hygher degrees of Duke, Erle, &c. beinge knyghtes, for so I haue seene Johnne of Gaunte pictured in his chapplett of Rooses; and kinge Edward the thirde gaue his chapplett to Eustace Rybamonte, only the difference was, that as they were of lower degree, so had they fewer Rooses placed on their chapplett or cyrcle of golde, one ornament deduced frome the Dukes crowne whiche had thee rooses vppone the toppe of the cyrcle, when the knyghte had them onely vppone the cyrcle or garlande ytselve. of whiche dukes crowne to be adorned with litle rooses,

Gower's chaplette  
for knighthood.  
not for poetry.

The chaplette of  
roses a peculiar  
ornament of hon-  
our.

The knighting of  
Erle Mortone of  
Normandye.

Chaucer being a  
grave man unlike-  
ly to beat a Fran-  
ciscan Fryer  
but ?

The lawyers not  
in the temple till  
the latter part of  
Edward III.

Mathewe Paris, speakinge of the creatinge of Johne erle Mortone, duke of Normandye, in the yere of Christe 1199, dothe saye, Interim comes Johannes Rothomagum veniens in octavis pasche gladio ducatus Normanie cinctus est, in matrice ecclesia, per ministerium Waltheri Rothomagensis Archiepiscopi, vbi Archiepiscopus memoratus ante maius altare in capite eius posuit circulum aureum habentem in summitate per gyrum rosulas aureas artificialiter fabricatas, whiche chaplett of Rooses came in the ende to be a bande aboute oure cappes, sette with golde Buttons, as may be supposed.—In the same title you saye, yt semethe that these lerned menne were of the Inner Temple ; for that, manye yeres since, master Buckley did see a recorde in the same howse, where Geffrye Chaucer was fined two shillings for beateinge a Franciscane Fryer in flete-streate. This is a hard collectione to prove Gower of the Inner Temple, althoughe he studyed the lawe. for thus you frame your argumente. Mr Buckley founde a recorde in the Temple, that Chaucer was fyned for beateinge the fryer ; ergo, Gower and Chaucer were of the Temple. But for myne owne parte, yf I wolde stande vppon termes for matter of Antiquytye and ransacke the originall of the lawiers fyrst settlinge in the Temple, I dobte whether Chaucer were of the temple or noe, vnless yt were towards his latter tyme, for he was an olde manne, as appereth by Gower in Confessione Amantis in the xvi yere of R. 2 : when Gower wroote that Booke. And yt is most certeyne to be gathered by cyrcumstances of Recordes, that the lawyers were not in the temple vntill towards the latter parte of the reygne of kinge Edward the thirde ; at whiche tyme Chaucer was a grave manne, holden in greate credyt, and employed in embassye, so that me thinkethe he sholde not be of that howse ; and yet, yf he then were, I sholde iudge yt strange that he sholde

violate the rules of peace and gravityte yn those yeares. But I will passe over all those matters scito pede, and leave euerye manne to his owne iudgement therein for this tyme.

IN THE TITLE OF Chawcer's mariage you saye, you cannott fynde the name of the Gentlewomanne whome he maryed. Trulye, yf I did followe the conceyte of others, I sholde suppose her name was Elizabethe, a waytinge womanne of Quene philippe, wyfe to Edward the thirde & daughter to William erle of Henalte. but I favor not their oppynyone, for, althoughe I fynde a recorde of the pellis exitus, in the tyme of Edward the thirde, of a yerely stypende to Elizabethe Chawcer, domicellæ reginæ Philippæ, whiche domicella dothe signyfy one of her waytinge gentlewomen: yet I cannott for this tyme thinke this was his wyfe, but rather his sister or kinswomanne, who after the deathe of her mystresse Quene philippe did forsake the worlde, and became a nonne at Seinte Heleins in london, accordinge as you haue touched one of that professione in primo of kinge Richarde the seconde.

Speight knoweth not the name of Chancer's wife, nor doth Thynne.

In the Latyne stemme of Chawcer you saye, speakinge of Katherine Swyneforde, *Que postea nupta Johanni Gandauensi tertij Edwardi Regis filio, Lancastriæ duci, illi procreavit filios tres et vnica[m] filiam.* Whereby we may inferre that Johne of Gaunte had these childrene by her after the mariage. Whiche is not soo for he had all his children by her longe before that mariage, so that they beinge all illegitimate were enforced afterwarde vpon that maryage to be legytymated by the poepe; & also by acte of Parliamente, aboute the two & twentythe of kinge Richarde the seconde; so that you cannott saye, *que postea nupta procreavit Lancastriæ duci tres filios, etc.*

The children of John of Gaunt born pre-nupt, and legytymated by the Pope and the Parliament.

In the title of Chawcers children and their advancemente, in a marginall noote you vouche master

Chancer's children and their advancement and

of the Burgershes. Campdene that Barthelmewe Burgershe, knyghte of the Garter, was he from whome the Burgershes, whose daughter & heyre was maryed to Thomas Chawcer, did descende. But that is also one error. for this Barthelmewe was of a collaterall lyne to that S<sup>r</sup> Johne Burgershe the father of Mawde wyfe to Thomas Chawcer; and therefore coulde not that S<sup>r</sup> Johne Burgershe be descended of this Barthelmewe Burgershe, though hee were of that howse. Then, in that title, you vouche oute of Mr. Campdene that Serlo de Burgo brother to Eustachius de Vescye builde Knaresborowe Castle. but that ys not right for this Serlo beinge called Serlo de Burgo siue de Pembroke was brother to Johne father to Eustace Vescye, as haue the recordes of the towre, and so vncle and not brother to Eustace. for one other marginall noote in that tittle, you saye, that Jane of Navarre was maryed to Henry the fourth in the fourth yere of his reygne, wherein you followe a late englishe cronicler whome I forbear to name.\* But Walsingham bothe in his historye of Henry the fourth, & in his ypodigma, sayethe that she was maryed the 26 of Januarye in the yere of Christe 1403, whiche was in the fyfte yere of the kinge, yf you begynne the yere of oure lorde at the annuntiatione of the Virgine, as we nowe doo; but this is no matter of great momente. fourthlye in that title you seme to attribute the advancemente of the Pooles to Williame de la poole, merchante of Hull, that lente the kinge a greate masse of moneye. But this Williame was not the fyrste advancer of that howse because his father Richarde at Poole beinge a cheife gouernor in hull, and serving the kings necessytye with money, was made pincerna Regis, one office of great accompte; by the same gyvinge the fyrste advancemente to the succedyng famelye. Whereof the Record

Serlo de Burgo  
uncle and not  
brother to Eus-  
tace.

Jane of Navarre  
maryed to Henry  
IV., in the 5th year  
of his reign.

The de la Pools  
gained advance-  
ment by lending  
the King money,  
but William was  
not the first that  
did so.

\* Stowe.

to prove Ric. de la Poole pincerna Regis is founde in the pryvye seales of the eleventh yere of kinge Edward the thirde, in master wardoures office, the lorde treasurers clerke. Where yt is in this manner: Edwardus dei gratia rex Angliæ et dux Acquitaniæ, &c. Supplicavit nobis dilectus noster Richardus de la Poole Pincerna noster, vt quum ipse de expensis officii Pincernariæ ac omnibus aliis officium illud tangentibus, ad dictum Scaccarium a festo sancti michaelis anno regni nostri decimo, vsque ad idem festum proxime sequens plenarie computaverit, et 2090<sup>li</sup>: 13<sup>s</sup>: et 11<sup>d</sup> et vnus obulus sibi per computum illud de claro debeatur: volumus ei solutionem inde, seu aliàs satisfactionem sibi fieri competentem: Nos eius supplicationi in hac parte, prout iustum est, annuentes, vobis mandamus, etc. Datum apud Westmonasterium 14 Decembris, anno regni nostri vndecimo. To whose sonne this Williame de la Poole the older, and to his sonne Michaell de la Poole [who was after Chauncelor] and to his heyres, the kinge graunted fowre hundred markes by yere out of the custome of Hull, as apperethe in the record of pellis exitus of 46 Ed. 3. the same Michaell de la Poole recevinge the arrerages of that Annuytye. for thus yt is entred in Michaelmas terme one the first of December of that yere: Michaeli de la poole filio et heredi Willielmi de la poole senioris per Talliam levatam isto die continentem iiij<sup>o</sup> lxx<sup>li</sup> xviiij<sup>s</sup> 1<sup>d</sup> ob. eidem michaeli liberat per compotum suum factum ad Scaccarium computator virtute cuiusdam brevis de magno sigillo, Thesaurario et Baronibus Scaccarii directum pro huius compoto faciendo, de quodam annuo certo iiij<sup>o</sup> marc. per annum quas dominus rex Willielmo de la Poole seniori defuncto, et michaeli filio suo et heredibus suis de corpore suo exeuntibus, de Custumia in portis ville de kingeston super Hull per litteras suas patentes concess: percipendum quamdiu vij<sup>o</sup> xxxv<sup>li</sup>:

The clergy offend-  
ed that the tem-  
poral men were  
found as wise as  
themselves.

A merchant by  
Attorney is no true  
merchant.

Alice, the wife of  
Richard Neville,  
was daughter of  
Thomas Monta-  
cute.

xviiij<sup>a</sup> id ob. eidem Michaeli per compotum predictum sic debitum, etc. Dominus Rex mandat vt ei satisfacti-  
onem vel assignationem competentem [in locis vbi ei  
celeriter satisfieri poterit] fieret et haberet, per breve de  
magno sigillo inter mandata de termino Paschæ anno  
quadragesimo tercio, etc. So that Richarde, Michael  
de la Pooles grandfather, [a magistrate of greate welthe  
in Hull,] was the fyrste that gaue advancemente to  
that howse: although Williame, father to this michael,  
were of lyke estate and a knyghte. nether canne I  
fynde [nor ys yt lyke] that michael de la poole was  
a marchante, [havage two such welthy marchantes  
to his ancestors before hym,] notwithstandinge that  
Walsingham [moore offended than reasone, as all the  
Clergye were against temporall menne who were nowe  
become chief officers of the realme; and the spyrituall  
menne, till then possessinge those offices, displaced,  
whiche bredd greate Sorseye in the Church menne  
againste them]; sayethe that michael de la poole fuerit  
à pueritia magis mercimoniis [vtpote Mercator Merca-  
toris filius] quam militia occupatus. And yet yt may  
bee that he mighte have some factors in merchandise,  
and deale by his attorneyes as many noble menne and  
great persons have donne, whereuppon Walsingham  
[who wroote longe after] might seme to call hym mer-  
chante by reasone of others mens dealinge for hym,  
althoughe in troothe he was neuer marchante in re-  
specte of his owne persone, [for whiche they are pro-  
perly called marchantes,] as may be supposed. ffyftlye  
in the same title you saye, that Alice, wyfe of Williame  
de la poole duke of Suffolke, had a daughter, by her  
seconde husbande thomas montague erle of Sarisbury, e  
named, after her mother, Alice, maryed to Richarde  
Neville sonne to Raphe Neuill erle of Westmerlande,  
by whome he had issue Richarde, Johnne, and George.  
But this is nothinge so. for this Alice, the wyfe of

Richarde Neville, [erle of Sarisbury in the righte of the same Alice,] was daughter of Thomas Montacute erle of Salisbury and of Alice his wyfe, daughter of Thomas Hollande erle of Kente; and not of Alice daughter to Thomas Chawcer and widdowe to William de la Poole duke of Suffolke.

IN THE LATTER END of the title of Chawcers deathe you saye, that printinge was brought oute of Germanye in the yere 1471 being the 37. H. 6. into Englande, beinge fyrst founde at Magunce by one Johne Cuthemburgus, and broughte to Roome by Conradus one Almayne. But the yere of Christe 1471 was not the 37. H. 6. but the eleuenthe of kinge Edward the fourthe; and, as some have yt, was not fyrste founde at Magonce or mentz but at Strasborowe, and perfected at Magonce. David Chytreus in his historye sayethe, yt was fyrst founde in anno 1440, and brought to Rome by Henricus Han\* a Germane in the yere 1470; whereof Antonius Campanus framed this excellent epigrame:

He correcteth  
Master Speight  
his dates and his-  
tory of printing.

Anser Tarpeii custos Jovis, vnde, quòd alis  
Constreperis, Gallus decedit; vltor adest  
Vlricus Gallus, ne quem poscantur in vsum,  
Edocuit pennis, nil opus esse tuis.

But others do suppose that yt was invented at Argenterote, as dothe Mathewe Parker in the lyfe of Thomas Bouchier Archbyshoppe of Canterbury; whiche for the incertentye thereof I leave at this tyme to farther examinatione, not havinge nowe presente leysure therefore.

IN THE TITLE OF THE augmente to euerye tale and booke you write, that the Romante of the Roose was made in frenche by Johne Clopinell alias Johne Moone; when in truthe the booke was not made by hym alone:

The Romante of  
the Rose begun  
by Guillm de  
Loris, and finished  
by John de la  
Meune.

\* "Hahn,"—German, a cock. "Cognomine Latino *Gallus*,"  
Maittaire *Ann. Typ.* i. 52.

for yt was begonne by Guillame de Loris, and fynished fourtye yeres after the death of Loris, by Johne de Meune alias Johne Clopinell, as apperethe by Molinet, the frenche author of the moralytye vppon the Romante of the Roose, ca. 50. fo. 57. and may further appere also in the frenche Romante of the Roose in verse, which Chaucer with muche of that matter omittted, not havinge translated halfe the frenche Romante, but ended aboute the middle thereof. Againste whiche Booke Gersone compiled one other, intituled *La reprobatione de la Romante del Roose*; as affirmethe the sayed Molinett, in the 107 chapter of the sayed moralizatione, where he excuse the Clopinell and reprouethe Gersone for that Booke, because Gersone soughte no further meanyuge than what was conteyned in the outwarde letter, this Clopinell begynnynge the Romante of the Rose, in these verses of Chaucer :

Alas my wane hoope nay, pardyee;  
for I will neuer dispayred bee :  
yf happe me fayle, then am I  
vngratious and vnworthy, &c.

Why the dream of  
Chaucer cannot be  
the book of the  
Duchess.

Secondlye, under that title you saye, the woorke, before this last editione of Chaucer, termed the Dreame of Chaucer, is mystermied, and that yt is the Booke of the Duches, or the Deathe of Blanche. wherein you bee greatlye mysledde in my conceyte, for yt cannott bee the Booke of the Duches or of the Deathe of Blanche, because Johne of Gaunt was then but fowre and twentye yere olde when the same was made, as apperethe by that tretise in these verses :

Then founde I syttinge euen vprighte  
A wonder well faringe knyghte,  
By the manner me thought so,  
Of good mokell, and right yonge thereto,  
Of the age of twentye fowre yere,  
Vppon his bearde but little heare.



Then yf he were but fowre and twentye yeres of age, being born, as hath Walsingham, in the yere of Christ 1339 the 13. of kinge Edwarde the thirde; and that he was maryed to Blanche the fourtene calendes of June 1359, the 33 of Ed: the thirde; he was at this mariage but twentye yeres of age; who within fower yeres after sholde make his lamentacion for Blanche the duchesse which must be then dedde. But the duchesse Blanche dyed of the pestilence in the yere of xxe 1368, as hath Anonimus MS, or 1369, as hath Walsinghame whiche by the first accompte was the ix. and by the last the x. yere after the mariage, and sixe or at the least five yeres after this lamentatione of Johne of Gaunte made in the fowre and twentye yere of his age. Wherfor this cannott be the boke of the Duches because he colde not lamente her deathe before she was deade. And yf you replie that yt pleinye apperethe the same treatyce to be mente of the duches Blaunche, whiche signyfyethe whyte, by which name he often termethe his ladye there lamented, but especially in these verses,

Her throte, as I haue memoyre,  
 semed as a round towre of yuoire,  
 of good gretnesse and not to greate,  
 and fayre white she hete,  
 that was my ladies name righte;  
 she was thereto fayre and brighte,  
 she had not her name wronge,  
 right fayre sholders and body longe, &c.

I will answer, that there is no necessitye that yt must be of Blanche the Duchesse because he sayeth her name was white; since there ys a famelye of that denominatione, and some female of that lyne myghte be both white in name, and fayre and white in *personne*; and so had not her name wronge or in *veyne*, as Chaucer sayeth. or yt mighte be some other louer

John of Gaunt,  
his incontinency.

of his called Blanche, since he had many paramours in his youthe, and was not verye contynente in his age. Wherefore, to conclude, yt apperethe as before, that yt coude not be mente of the Duchesse Blanche his wyfe, whiche dyed long after that compleinte. for whiche cause that Dreame of Chaucer in mye opynyone may well [naye rather of righte sholde] contynewe his former title of The Dreame of Chaucer. for that, whiche you will haue the Dreame of Chaucer, is his Temple of Glasse; as I haue seene the title thereof noted, and the thinge yt selfe confirmethe.

Doubteth master  
Speight's ability  
in the exposition  
of old words, but  
commendeth his  
diligence and  
knowledge.

IN THE EXPOSITIONE of the olde wordes, as you shewe greate diligence and knowledge, so yet in my opynione, unlesse a manne be a good saxoniste, french, and Italyane linguiste, (from whence Chaucer hathe borrowed manye woordes,) he cannott well expounde the same to oure nowe vnderstandinges, and therefore [thoughe I will not presume of much knowledge in these tounge] yt semeth yet to mee, that in your expositione, soome woordes are not so fullye and rightlye explaned as they mighte bee, although peradventure you haue framed them to make sence. Wherefore I haue collected these fewe [from many others left for moore leysure] whiche seme to mee not to be fullye explaned in their proper nature, thoughe peradventure you will seme to excuse them by a metaphoricall gloose.

Aketon or Sleeve-  
lesse jacket of  
plate for the war.

Aketon or Haketone you expounde a jackett withoute sleeves, without any further additione, that beinge an indiffynyte speache, and therefore may be entended a comone garmente daylye vsed, suche as we call a jerken or jackett withoute sleues: But *haketon* is a sleevelesse jackett of plate for the warre, couered withe anye other stuffe; at this day also called a jackett of plate, suche aketon Walter Stapleton, Bishoppe of Excester and Custos or Wardene of Londone, had vppon hym secretlye, when he was apprehended and

behedded in the twentyeth yere of Edwarde the seconde.

Besante you expounde a duckett, But a duckett ys farre from a besante, bothe for the tyme of the invention, and for the forme; and as I suppose for the valewe, not withstandinge that Hollybande in his frenche-Englishe dictionarye make yt of the valewe of a duckett, whiche duckett is for the most part eyther venetiane or spansyshe, when the Besante ys mere Grek-ishe; a coyne well knowen and vsed in Englande [and yet not therefore one auncient coyne of Englande, as Hollybande sayethe yt was of france,] amongst the Saxons before, and the Normans after the Conqueste; the forme whereof I will at other tyme describe, onlye nowe settinge downe, that this besante [beinge the frenche name, and in armorye rightlye accordinge to his nature, for a plate of golde,] was called in Latine Byzantium, obteyninge that name because yt was the coyne of Constantinople sometye called Bizantium; and because you shall not thinke this any fictione of myne owne, I will warrante the same with Williame of Malmesberye in the fourthe booke De Regibus, who hathe these wordes: Constantinopolis primum Bizantium dicta formam antiqui vocabuli preferunt imperatorii nummi Bizantium dicta; where one other coppye for nummi Bizantium hath Bizantini nummi, and the frenche hath yt besante or Bezantine, makinge yt an olde coyne of france, [when he sholde haue sayed one olde coyne in France and not of France,] of the valewe of a duckette.

A besant is a besant, and not a duckett.

Fermentacione you expounde Dawbinge, whiche cannott anye way be metaphoricallye so vsed in Chaucer, althoughe yt sholde be improperlye or harsely applied. For fermentacione ys a peculier terme of Alchymye, deduced from the bakers fermente or levyne. And therefore the Chimicall philosophers defyne the

Fermentacione is fermentacione, and not dawbing even metaphorically.

fermente to bee anima, the sowle or lyfe, of the philosophers stoone. Whereunto agreethe Clauiger Bincing, one chemicall author, sayinge, ante viuificationem id est fermentacionem, *whiche* is before tinctinge, or gyvinge tincture or cooler; that beinge as muche to saye as gyvinge sowle or lyfe to the philosophers stoone, wherby that may fermente or cooler or gyue lyfe to all other metaline bodyes.

Orfrayes not Goldsmith's work, but frysed cloth of gold, a manufacture peculiar to the English.

Orfrayes you expounde Goldsmaythes worke, *whiche* ys as nere to goldsmaythes woorke as clothe of golde, for this worde orefrayes, beinge compounded of the frenche worde [or] and [frays, or fryse,] the Englishe is that *whiche* to this daye [beinge now made all of one stuffe or substance] is called frised or perled cloothe of gold; in Latyne, in tymes past, termed aurifrisium or aurifrixorium. A thinge well knowen to the Saxons in Englande before, as to the Normans after, the Conqueste, and therefore fullye to satisfye you thereof, I will produce twoo auctorauctors of the weaving and vse thereof before the conquest and since, wherein you shall pleynely see what yt was, and in what accompt yt was holden, beinge a worke peculiar to the Englishe. The lieger booke of Elye, speakinge of Ediswetha daughter to Brightnothus, aldermanne, erle or duke, of northumberlande before the Conquest sayethe; cui tradita Coveneia, locus monasterio vicinus, vbi aurifrixorie et texturæ secretiùs cum puellis vacabat; and a little after, Tunica Rubra purpura per gyrum et ab humeris aurifri vndique circumdatum. Then, after the conquest, mathew Paris speakethe thereof aboute ornamentes to be sente to the Poope. but because I haue not my mathewe Paris here, I will vouch one whose name hathe muche affinitye with hym, and that is Mathewe Parker Archbyshoppe of Canterburye, who, in the Lyfe of Bonifacius Archbishoppe of that see, hathe these wordes. "A°. Domini

1246, Romæ multi Anglicani aderant Clerici, qui capis vt aiunt chorealibus, et infulis, ornamentisque ecclesiasticis, ex Anglice tunc more gentis, ex lana tenuissima et auro artificiosè intexto fabricatis, vterentur. Huius modi ornamentorum aspectu et concupiscentia provocatus Papa, rogavit cuiusmodi essent. Responsum est, aurifrisia appellari, quia et eminens ex panno et lana quam Angli fryse appellant, simul contexta sunt. Cui subridens et dulcedine captus Papa, Vere, inquit," [for these are the woordes of Mathewe Paris whiche lyved at that tyme,] "Hortus noster delitiarum est Anglia, verus puteus est inexhaustus, et vbi multa abundant, de multis multa sumere licet. Itaque, concupiscentia illectus oculorum, litteras suas Bullatas sacras misit ad Cistercienses in Anglia Abbates, quorum orationibus se devotè commendabat, vt ipsi hec aurifrisia speciosissima ad suum ornandum chorum compararent. Hoc Londoniensibus placuit, quia ea tum venalia habebant, tantique quanti placuit vendiderunt. In whiche discourse you not onely see that ore-fryes was a weued clothe of golde and not goldsmythe worke, and that Englande had before and since the conqueste the arte to compose suche kynde of delicate Cloothe of golde as Europe had not the lyke; for yt hadd, the poepe wolde haue made suche prouisione thereof in other places, and not from Englande. And because you shall not thinke that yt was onely vsed of the Clergye, you shall fynde in a record of the Towre that yt was also one ornamente of the kings garmente, since the Conqueste, for, in Rotulo Patentium 6. Johannis in Dorso [in whiche the kinge commaunded the templers to deliuer suche jewells, garmentes, and ornamentes as they had of the kings in kepinge,] are these wordes: "Dalmaticam de eodem samitto vrlatani de orfreyes et cum lapidibus." Whiche is to saye, the kings Dalmaticall garmente of the same

Oundye and  
Crispe meaneth  
wavy like water.

samitte [spoken of before, whiche was crymsone,] vrlod or bordrede [suche as we nowe calle garded] withe orfreyes.

fforthlye Oundye and Crispe is by you expounded slyked and curled, whiche sence althoughe yt may beare after some sorte ; yet the proprietye of the true sence of oundye [beinge an especiall terme appropriate to the arte of Heraldye] dothe signifye wavinge or movinge, as the water dothe ; being called vndye, of Latyne vnda for water, for so her haire was oundye, that is, layed in rooles vppone and downe, lyke waves of water when they are styrrd with the winde, and not slyked or playne, etc.

Resager is ratsbane or arsenic.

ffyftlye You expounde not Resager, beinge a terme of Alchymye ; as you leave manye of them vntouched. This worde sholde rather be resalgar, wherefore I will shewe you what resalgar ys in that abstruse science, whiche Chawcer knewe full well, althoughe he enveye againste the sophisticall abuse thereof in the chanons Yeomans Tale. This Resalgar is that whiche by some is called Ratesbane, a kynde of poysons named Arsenicke, which the chemicall philosophers call their venome or poysons. Whereof I coulde produce infynyte examples ; but I will gyve you onely these fewe for a taste. Aristotle, in Rosario Philosophorum, sayethe, "*nullum tingens venenum generatur absque sole et eius vmbra, id est, uxor.*" whiche venome they call by all names presentinge or signifyinge poysons, as a toode, a dragon, a Basilyske, a serpente, arsenicke, and suche lyke ; and by manye other names, as "*in exercitacione ad turbam philosophorum,*" apperethe, wher aqua simplex is called *venenum*, *Argentum vivum*, *Cinnabar*, *aqua permanens*, *gumma*, *acetum*, *urina*, *aqua maris*, *Draco*, *serpens*, etc. And of this poysons the treatye *de phenice*,\* or the phi-

\* A copy of this curious poem in Thynne's hand-writing, and

losophers stoone, written in Gothyshe rymynge verse,  
dothe saye ;

Moribunda, corporis virus emanabat  
quod maternam faciem candidam fœdabat.

Begyn and Bigott you expounde superstitious hypocrites, whiche sence I knowe yt maye somewhat beare, because yt sauorethe of the dispositiōe of those begins, or Beguines, for that ys the true wrytinge. But this worde Begyn sholde in his owne nature rightlye haue ben expounded, superstitious or hipocriticall wemenne, as appereth by chaucer himselfe, whiche nombreth them emongest the women in the Romante of the Roose when he sayethe,

Begyns are nuns,  
though it cometh  
to mean super-  
stitious and hypo-  
critical women  
from their nature.

But empresses, & duchesses,  
These queenes, & eke countesses  
These abbasses, & eke Bigins,  
These greate ladyes palasins.

And a little after, in the same Romante, he doth write,

That dame abstinence streyned  
Tooke one a Robe of camelyne,  
And ganne her gratche as a Bygin.  
A large cover-cherfe of Thredde  
She wrapped all aboute her hedde.

These wemene the Frenche call Beguynes or nonnes ; being in Latyne called Bigrinæ or Biguinæ. Whose originall order, encrease, and contynuaunce are sett downe by mathewe Paris and Mathewe Westminster. But as I sayed, since I haue not my mathewe Paris at hand, I will sett you downe the wordes of mathewe Westmynster (otherwise called "Flores Historiarum" or "Florilegus") in this sorte. Sub eisdem diebus [which was in the yere of Christe 1244, and aboute the 28 of kinge Henry the thirde,] quidam in Almaniam precipuè se asserentes vitam et habitum relligionis marvellously illustrated by him, is in the Brit. Mus., MSS. Add. No. 11,388.

elegisse, in utroque sexu, sed maximè in muliebri, continentiam, cuius vitæ simplicitate profitentes, se voto priuato deo obligarunt. Mulieresque, quas Bigrinas vulgaritèr vocamus, adeò multiplicatæ sunt, quòd earum numerus in vna ciuitate, scilicèt Colonia, ad plus quam mille asseritur ascendisse, etc. After whiche, speakeinge yn the yere of Christe 1250 of the encrease of religigious orders, he sayeth, Item in Alemania et Francia mulieres, quas Biguinas nominant, etc.

Citrinatione or  
perfect digestion.

Citrinatione you do not expounde, beinge a terme of Alchymye. Whiche Citrinatione is bothe a color and parte of the philosophers stooone. for, as hathe Tractatus Avicennæ [yf yt be his and not liber supposititijs, as manye of the Alchimicall woorkes are foysted in vnder the names of the best lerned authors and philosophers, as Plato, Aristotle, Avicen, and suche others,] in parte of the 7 chapter. Citrinatio est que fit inter album et rubrum, et non dicitur coolor perfectus, whiche Citrinatione, as sayethe Arnoldus de Nova Villa, li. i. ca. 5. nihil aliud est quàm completa digestio. For the worke of the philosophers stooone, following the worke of nature, hathe lyke color in the same degree. for as the vrine of manne, being whityshe, sheweth imperfecte digestion: But when he hathe well rested, and slepte after the same, and the digestion perfected: the vrine becomethe citrine, or of a depe yellowe cooler: so ys yt in Alchymye. whiche made Arnolde call this citrinatione perfect digestion, or the cooler prouinge the philosophers stooone broughte almoste to the heighte of perfectione.

Forage is old and  
hard provision  
made for horses  
and cattle in  
winter.

Forage in one place you expounde meate, and in other place fodder. boothe whiche properly cannott stande in this place of chaucer in the reves prologue, where he sayeth, "my fodder is forage." for yf forrage be fodder, then is the sence of that verse, "my fodder is fodder." But fodder beinge a generall name for



meate gyven to Cattle in winter, and of affynytye withe foode applied to menne and beasts, dothe onlye signyfye meate. And so the sence is, "my meate ys forage," that is, my meate is suche harde and olde provisione as ys made for horses and Cattle in winter. for so doth this worde *forragium* in latyne signyfye. and so dothe Chaucer meane. for the word next before dothe well shewe yt, when the Reve sayeth,

I ame olde, me liste not play for age,  
Grasse tyme is donne, my fodder is forrage.

Yet metaphorically yt may be taken for other than drye horse meate, although improperly; as Chaucer hath, in Sir Topas Ryme, where he makethe yt grasse for his horse, and vseth the woorde rather to make vpp the ryme than to shewe the true nature thereof; sayinge,

or metaphorically,  
or to help out the  
ryme it may mean  
grasse.

That downe he layed hym in that place,  
to make his steede some solace  
and gyve hym good forage.

Heroner *you* expounde a certeyne kynde of hawke, whiche is true, for a gowshawke, sparrowe hawke, tassell, &c. be kyndes of hawkes. But this heroner, is an especiall hawke [of anye of the kyndes of longe winged hawkes] of moore accompte then other hawkes are, because the flighte of the Herone ys moore dangerous than of other fowles, insomuch, that when she fyndeth her selfe in danger, she will lye in the ayre vppon her backe, and turne vpp her bellye towardes the hawke; and so defile her enymye with her excrementes, that eyther she will blinde the hawke, or ells with her byll or talons pierce the hawkes brest yf she offer to cease vppon her.

Heroner is a long-winged hawk for the heron.

The Hyppe is not simplye the redde berrye one the Bryer, vnlest *you* adde this epithetone and saye, the redde Berrye one the swete Bryer, [which is the Eg-lantyne,] to distinguishe yt from the comone Bryer or

The Hyppe is the berye of the sweet bryer or eg-lantine.

Bramble 'beringe the blacke Berye, for that name Bryer ys comone to them boothe; when the Hyppe is proper but to one, neither maye yt helpe you that you saye the redd Berye, to distinguishinge yt from the Blacke, for the blacke berye ys also redde for a tyme, and then may be called the redde Berye of the Bryer for that tyme.

Nowell meaneth more than Christmas.

Nowell you expounde Christmasse, whiche ys that feaste and moore, for yt is that tyme, whiche is properly called the Advente together with Christmasse and Neweyeres tyde, wherefore the true etymologye of that worde ys not Christmasse, or the twelve dayes, but yt is godd with us, or, oure Godde, expressinge to vs the comynge of Christe in the fleshe, whiche peradventure after a sorte, by the figure synecdoche, you may seeme to excuse, placinge ther xpmas (*Christmasse*) a parte of this tyme of Nowell for all the tyme that Nowell conteynethe. for in the same worde is conteyned sometyme xx, but for the most parte thirtie dayes before Christmesse, aswell as the Christmesse yt selfe, that woorde being deduced as hathe *Willielmus Postellus* in *Alphabet. 12 Linguarum*, from the hebrue worde Noell: for thus he writethe: **בְּאֵל** noel, sonat deus noster sive Deus nobis advenit, solitaque est hec vox cantaria plebe ante xpi (*Christi*) natalitia viginti aut triginta dies quodam desiderio.

Porpherye is a peculiar marble, not marble in common.

Porpherye you expounde marble, whiche marble ys genus, but porpherye is species, for as there is white and grey marble, so ys there redde marbell, whiche is this porpherye, a stone of reddish purple color, distincte or enterlaced with white veynes as you may see in the great pillars entringe into the royall exchange or burse in Cornhill.

Sendale, a sylke stuffe.

Sendale you expounde a thynne stuffe lyke cypres. but yt was a thynne stuffe lyke sarcenette, and of a rawe kynde of sylke or sarcenett, but courser and nar-

rower, than the sarcenett nowe ys, as my selfe canne remember.

Trepegett you expounde a ramme to batter walles. But the trepegete was the same that the magonell; for Chaucer calleth yt a trepegett or magonell; wherefore the trepegett and magonell being all one, and the magonell one instrumente to flynge or cast stones [as youreselfe expounde yt] into a towne, or against a towne walles, [an engine not muche vnylike to the catapulte, an instrumente to cast forthe dartes, stones, or arrowes,] the trepeget must nedes also be one instrumente to cast stones or such lyke against a wall or into a towne, and not a Ramme to batter wales; since the Ramme was no engine to flinge anye thinge, but by mens handes to be broughte and pushed againste the walles; a thinge farr different in forme from the magonell or catapulte, as appereth by Vigetius and Robertus Valturius de re militari.

The trepegett is not the battering-ram, but an engine to cast stones.

Wiuer you expounde not. Wherefore I will tell you, a wyuer is a kynde of serpent of good Bulke, not vnylike vnto a dragon, of whose kinde he is, a thinge well knowen vnto the Heroldes, vsinge the same for armes, and crestes, & supporters of manye gentle and noble menne. As the erle of Kent beareth a wiuer for his creste and supporters, the erle of Pembroke, a wiuer vert for his creste; the erle of Cumberlande, a wiuer geules for his supporters.

Wiuer or Wyvern, a serpent like unto a dragon.

Autenticke you expounde to be antiquytye. But howe you may seme to force and racke the worde to Chaucers meaninge, I knowe not; but sure I ame the proper significatione of autenticke is a thinge of auctoritye or credit allowed by menne of auctoritye, or the originall or fyrste archetypum of any thinge; whiche I muse that you did not remember.

Autenticke meaneth a thing of auctoritye, not of antiquitye.

Abandone you expounde libertye; whiche in all Italiane, Frenche, and Spanishe, signifyeth relinquere,

Abandone is not liberty though Hollyband sayeth so.

to forsake and leave a thinge; *whiche methinkethe you most hardely stretche to libertye, vnlest you will saye that, when one forsakethe a thinge, he leaveth yt at libertye; whiche ys but a streyned speche, although the frenche Hollybande, not vnderstandinge the true energye of our tongue, hath expounded yt libertye; whiche may be some warrant vnto you.*

VNDER THE TITLE OF YOURE Annotations and Corrections.

Of the Vernacle.

IN YOURE ANNOTACIONS you describe, oute of the prologues, the vernacle to be a broche or figure, wherein was sett the instruments wherewith Christe was crucyfied, and withall a napkyn wherein was the printe of his face. but the vernacle did not conteyne the instrumentes of his deathe, but only the clothe wherein was the figure of his face; as I conceve yt with others.

Master Thynne would read Capaneus for Capaneus, and giveth reasons.

Fo: 1. pa: 2. For Campaneus you wolde reade Capaneus, wherunto I cannott yelde. for although Statius and other latine authors do call hym Capaneus; yet all the writers of Englande in that age call him campaneus; as Gower, in confessione amantis, and Lidgat in the historye of Thebes taken out of Statius, and Chaucer hym selfe in many other places. so that yt semethe they made the pronunziatione of Campaneus to be the dialecte of our tongue for Capaneus. Besides chaucer is in this to be pardoned, in that taking his knightes tale out of the Thesayde of Bocas, written in Italiane [and of late translated into frenche,] doth there, after the Italiane manner, call him campaneus; for so the Italians pronounce woordes beginninge with cap: with the interpositione of the *lettere m*, pronouncing yt camp: for, that *whiche* the Latins call capitulum, the Italians call campidoglio; and suche lyke. Wherefore since yt was vniuersallye receued in that age, to call him Campaneus: lett vs not nowe alter yt, but permytte yt to have free passage accordinge to the

pronuntiatiōne and wrytinge of that age. since, in deducing woordes from one language to one other, there ys often additione and subtractione of letters, or of Sillabes, before, in the middle, and in the ende of those wordes. whereof infynyte examples mighte be produced, whiche I nowe shonne for brevytye.

Fo : 3. pa : 2. ["Noughte comelye lyke to lovers maladye of Hereos."] for whiche woorde hereos you reade eros, i. cupide, a very good and probable correctione, well gathered out of Luciane. But [salua patientia vestra, and reservinge to myselfe better iudgements hereafter yf I nowe mystake yt,] I wolde, for the printed hereos of Chaucer, read heroes. whiche two woordes onely differ in misplacinge of the letters; a comone thinge for the printer to do, and the corrector to overpasse. for Arcyte, in this furye of his love, did not shewe those courses of gouernmente, whiche the Heroes, or valiante persons, in tymes past vsed, for thoughte they loued, yet that passione did not generallye so farre overrule them [althoughe yt mighte in some one particuler personne] as that theye lefte to contynewe the valor, and heroicke actions, whiche they before performed. for the Heroes sholde so love, as that they sholde not forgett, what they were in place, valor, or magnanymy, whiche Arcite, in this passion, did not observe "lyke to lovers malady of Heroes." Whereof I coulde produce six hundred examples, [as the proverbe ys,] were yt not that I avoyde tedious prolixitye.

Liketh the reading of Eros, but preferreth that of Heros, and giveth reasons.

Fo : 6. pa : 2. ["Manye a florence."] In whiche noote you expounde a florence to be ij<sup>e</sup> frenche, and a gelder to be the same in dutche. Wherein you mistake the valewe of the florens, suche as was vsed in Chaucers tyme, whiche taking his name of the woorkemenne, beinge florentynes, [of the terrytorye of florence in Italye,] were called Florens; as sterlinge money

Of florins and their name from the Florentines.

Sterling money

taketh its name.  
from the Ester-  
linga.

tooke their name of Esterlinges, whiche refyned and coyned the silver in the tyme of kinge Henry the seconde. for two shillinges frenche ys not equall in valewe [as I nowe take yt] to two shillinges Englishe : and much lesse equall to the florens in Chaucers tyme, whiche was of the valewe of thre shillings, fowre pence, or halfe a noble, or, at the leaste, of two shillinges tenne pence farthinge, as apperethe by recorde and historye : some of them being called florens de scuto or of the valewe of the shelde or frenche crowne and some of them called florens regall. Whereof you shall fynde, in the recorde of pellis exitus in the exchequer in michelmas terme 41. Ed. 3. this note. Bartholomeo de Burgershe militi in denariis sibi liberatis in parte solutionis 8000 florenorum de scuto pretii petii ij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>. sibi debitis de illis 30000 florenorum de scuto in quibus Rex tenebatur eidem Bartholomeo pro comite de Ventadoure, prisonario suo apud Bellum de Poyters in guerra capto, et ab eodem Bartholomeo ad opus Regis empto, vt patet per litteras Regis patentes, quas idem Bartholomeus indè penes se habet. in Dors. de summa subscripta, per breve de magno sigillo, inter mandata de Term. Michaelis de anno 36 —xx<sup>ii</sup>. To the valewe whereof agreeth Hipodigma Neustriæ, pa. 127, where setting downe the ransome of the frenche kinge taken at Poyters to the valewe of thre milliones of florens, he sayethe “of whiche florens duo valebant vj<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>.” These florens the same Walsingham in another place calle the scutes or frenche crownes, pa. 170, sayinge : Rex quidem Franciæ pro sua redemptione soluit regi Angliæ tres milliones scutorum, quorum duo valent vnum nobile, videlicet, sex solidos et octo denarios. Whiche scutes in lyke manner, in the tyme of kinge Henry the sixte were of the same valewe, as apperethe in Fortescues commentaries of the lawes of Englande. But as those

King John of  
France, his ran-  
som of three mil-  
lions of florens.

florens for the redemptione of the frenche kinge, were of the valewe of half one noble: so at the tyme of that kings reigne there were also one other sorte of florens, not of lyke valewe, but conteyned within the price of ij<sup>s</sup>. x<sup>d</sup>. *℞*. called florene regales, as apperethe in this record, of Easter terme, of Pellis exitus before sayed, where yt is thus entred one the sixte of Julye: Guiscardo de Angles. Domino de pleyne martyne, In denariis sibi liberatis per manus Walteri Hewett militis in pretio 4000 florenorum regalium pretii petii —ij<sup>s</sup>. x<sup>d</sup>. *℞*. de quibus florenis regalibus 7 computantur pro tribus nobilibus, eidem Guiscardo debitis. Whereby you see the meanest of these florens did exceed the valewe of ij<sup>s</sup>. frenche, [although you sholde equall that with ii<sup>s</sup>. Englishe,] as yt did also in other countryes. for in the lowe countryes at those dayes yt was much aboute the valewe of iij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>. beinge halfe a pistolet Italiane or Spanyshe. for so sayethe Heuterius Delphicus, [in the Historye of Burgundye, in the lyfe of Philippe le hardye,] lyving at that tyme, and sonne to the frenche kinge taken prisoner by the Inglish. Heuterius' woordes be these. Illustris viri aliorumque nobilium mors adeo comitem commovit, vt relictis obsidione exercitus ad comitatus ducendos in proxima loca distribuerit. Decem millibus florenorum [moneta Belgica est semipistoletum Italicum pendens] pro Anglicani, aliorumque nobilium cadaverum redemptione solutis, &c.

Fo : 7. pa : 2. For unseriall you will vs to reade cerriall, for cerrus \* is a kynde of tree lyke one oke, bearinge maste; and therefore by your correctione yt sholde be a garland of grene oke cerriall: But for the same reasone [because cerrus ys a kynde of oke as ys also the Ilex] I judge yt sholde not be redde cerriall, but unseriall, that ys, [yf you will nedes have this

Of the oken garland of Emelye.

\* The *Quercus cerris*, the mossy cupped oak?

worde cerriall,] a garlande of greene oke not cerriall, as who sholde saye, she had a Garlande of Grene oke, but not of the oke Cerriall. and therefore a garlande of oke unseriall, signifyinge a garlande that was freshe and Grene, and not of dedd wannyshe Coolor as the oke Cerriall in some parte ys. for the Cerrus, being the tree whiche we comonly call the holme oke, (as Cooper also expoundeth the ilex to be that which wee call holme,) produceth two kyndes; whereof the one hathe greater, and the other lesser acornes, whose leaves beinge somewhat grene one the one syde, and of one ouerrussett and darkyshe Coolor on the other syde, were not mete for this garland of Emelye, whiche sholde be freshe and Grene one everye parte, as were her younge and grene yeres, lyke to the goddesses to whome she sacryficed, and therefore a garlande of Grene oke unseriall, not beinge of oke cerriall, for yf yt had byn oke serriall, yt wolde haue shewed duskyshe and as yt were of deddishe leaves, and not freshe and orient as chaucer wolde haue her garlande. And this for your expositione of unseriall, in some parte: for I wolde suppose that this worde unseriall dothe not vnaptly signifye perfectione of coolor, so that She having a Garlande of Grene oke unseriall, doth signyfy the oke to be grene and unseriall, that is, [as some do expounde this worde unseriall,] unsered, unsinged, unwithered, of freshe coolor, lyke unto the oke Quercus whiche hath no sered nor withered cooloor in his leafes. And yt was of necessitye that Emely [sacryfysinge to Diana] must haue a garlande of the Grene oke Quercus, because that they whiche sacryficed vnto Diana, otherwise called Hecate, [which name is attribute to Diana, as natalis Comes affirmethe with statius in his Acheloides in his first Booke sayinge,

*Sic ybi virgineis Hecate lassata pharetris,*

being Diana adorned with her bowe and arrowes,



called also Triuia because Luna, Diana, and Heccate, were all one, whereof Virgil speaketh,

*Tergeminamque Hecaten, tria virginis ora Dianæ,*

were adorned with a crowne of the grene oke Quercus, because that Heccate was wont to be crowned therewith, as hath Pierius Valerianus in his 51 booke of Hieroglyphes, sayinge, Heccate quoquè Quercu coronari solita est. for although Quercus be consecrate to Jupiter, because he gave his oracles in the same in Sylva Dodonea, and therefore called Jupiter Dodoneus; yet Antiquitye adorned and crowned Diana Heccate with the same crowne also. Wherefore I conclude, since she (Emelye) had a garlande of Grene oke, [as Chaucer of purpose addeth that woorde Greene to explaine unseriall, whiche signifyethe unsered, unparched, unwithered in every parte, not lyke to the oke Serriall, whose leafe one the one syde is duskyshe as though yt were somewhat withered,] that the same word unseriall must stand unamended, as well [as I sayed before] by youre owne correctione and the nature of the worde; as for that Diana, called Heccate, was crowned with the oke Quercus and not with the oke cerrus. But yf you obiecte to mee that, in this place, yt must be a garlande of oke cerriall accordinge to the woordes of Chaucer in one other place, because that he in the flower and the leafe [newely printed by you] hath these woordes;

I sie come first all in their clokes white  
a companye that were for delight.  
Chapletts freshe of oke serriall  
Newly spronge and Trompetts they were all;

I denye that therefore in the Knightes Tale yt must be oke serriall. for yt may well bee, that such meane persons as trompettes might be crowned with so base one oke as the serriall ys, whiche I call base in respecte of

the oke Quercus [dedicate to the godd Jupiter] wherewith the Heccate was crowned, and whereof Garlands were gyven to the Romans for their nooble desarts in the warres, as apperthe in the Quernall crowne gyven to those whiche had saved a cytyzen. Wherefore Chaucer dothe rightly [and of purpose with great iudgment in my conceyte] make a difference in the chaplettes of the Trompettes and the garlands of Emelye, in that the trompetts chapletts were of oke seriall newly spronge, and not come to perfectione, whiche yet yf they had byn perfecte wolde not haue byn soo oryente and Greene one bothe sydes as ys the oke Quercus, wherewith he wolde haue this Emelye crowned, as was her goddesse Heccate Diana [to whom she dyd sacryfye] accustomed to bee. for so in tymes past [as I sayed before] the sacryfyer sholde be adorned with garlandes of suche thinges, as were consecrate to the goddes to whome they sacryficed. for whiche cause also I ame not moved, thoughe Caxtone in his seconde editione do call yt one oke serriall. for I knowe [notwithstandinge his fayre prologe of printing that by a true cotype] there be manye imperfections in that Booke.

Eyther for euerye,  
an ouernice correction.

For: 9. pa: 1. For euerye] you will us to reade eyther. But the sence ys good, as well that they dyd ryde one euerye syde of hym, as of eyther syde of him. for they bothe colde not ryde of euerye syde of hym, no moore then they both colde ryde of eyther syde of him; and therefore they two ryding one euerye side of hym, canne haue noone other constructione then that the one did ryde of the one syde and the other one the other side, aud therefore an ouernice correctione, thoughe some coppies do warrant yt:

The intellect of  
Arcite had not  
wholly gone, or he  
would not have  
known Emelye.

For: 10. pa: 1. for save only the intellecte,] you wolde haue us to reade "and also the intellecte." But yf you well consider the woordes of Chaucer, [as

I have donne in all the written copyes whiche I haue yet seene,] his meaninge ys not that the intellecte was wholye goonne, as yt wolde bee yf you sholde reade, "and also the intellecte" for "save only the intellecte." for Chaucers meanyng ys, that all his strengthe and vitall Sprites aboute his outwarde partes were gonne, save onlye the intellecte or vnderstandinge, whiche remayned sounde and good, as apperethe after by the followinge woordes, for when deathe approached, and that all outwarde senses fayled, he (Arcite) yet cast eye vppon Emelye, remembringe her, thoughe the cheifest vitall sprite of his harte and his strengthe were gonne from hym. but he colde not haue cast his eye vppon Emelye, yf his intellecte had fayled hym. Yet yf you liste to reade, "and also the intellecte," for saue only the intellecte, yt may after a sorte somewhat be borne withall, notwithstandinge that a pointe at strengthe is looste; and a parenthesis includynge [Save only the intellecte, without moore,] will make the sence good in this sort as I have here pointed yt :

And yet mooreouer from his armes two  
the vital strengthe is lost; and all agoo  
[save only the intellecte without moore]  
that dwelleth in his hart sicke and sore  
gan faylen : When the hart felt death &c.

Fo : 10. pa : 2. For armes straughte you wolde reade yt haughte, when straughte is moore significant [and moore answerable to Chaucers woordes whiche followethe] than haughte ys. for he speakethe of the Bredthe and spredinge of the boughes or armes or branches of the tree, whiche this woorde straughte doth signyfy, and is moore aptly sett downe for stretched, then this woorde haughte, whiche signyfyethe catchinge holde, or holdinge faste, or [yf you will streyne yt againste his nature] stretching on heigh,

Straught, a better  
word than  
haughte.

whiche agree the not well with Chancers meanyng.  
for these be his words :

And twenty fadome of breedth, armes straughte ;  
That is to sayen, the Bowes were so broode, &c.

Visage for vassal-  
age, an impertin-  
ent correction.

Fo : 11. pa : 1. For all forgotten in his vassalage, yow wolde haue vs reade, "for all forgotten is then his visage ;" a thinge mere impertinente. for the forgettinge of his visage and personage is not materiall, nor regarded of anye to haue his face forgotten, but yt is muche materiall [and so ys Chaucers meanyng] that his vassalage, and the good service donne in his youthe, shold be forgotten when he waxethe olde. And therefore yt must bee "his vassalage forgotten ;" as presently after Chaucer sayeth, better for a manne to dye when he is yonge, and his honor in price, than when he is olde, and the service of his youthe forgotten ; whiche I coulde dilate and prove by manye examples ; but I cannott stande longe vpon euerye pointe, as well for that I wolde not be tedious vnto you, as for that leysure serveth me not thereunto.

Leefe for lothe, a  
nedeless correc-  
tion.

Fo : 13. pa : 1. For lothe you bidde vs reade leefe, which annotacione neded not to haue byn there sett downe, because the verye woorde in the texte is lefe.

It is more likely  
that Absolon  
knocked than that  
he coughed at the  
window.

Fo : 14. pa : 1. for knocked you reade coughed, but, the circumstance considered, [althoughe they may both stande,] yt is moore probable that he\* knocked at her† windowe, than that he coughed. for although those woordes "with a semely sownde" may haue relatione to the voyce, yet they may as well and with as much consonancye haue reference to a semely and gentle kynde of knockinge at the windowe as to the voyce, and so his meanyng was by that sounde to wake her, whiche wolde rather be by the noyse of a knocke than of a coughe. for so he determyned be-

\* [Absolon.]

† [The Carpenter's wife's.]

fore to knocke, as apperethe in these verses, when he sayed,

So mote I thryve, I shall at cockes crow  
Full priuily knocke at his windowe :

And so apperethe by the tale afterwarde that he knocked, as he did before, although he coughed also at the latter tyme, for he knocked twyce.

Fo : 23. pa : 2. For Surrye you read Russye. true yt is, that some written copies haue Russye, and some Surrye. And therefore indifferent after the written copies, and some auncient printed copies before my fathers editione. But yf I shall interpone my opynione, I wolde more willingly [for this tyme] receve Surrey, because yt is most lykelye that the tartarians whiche dwelt at Sara [a place yet well knownen, and bordering vppon the lake Mare Caspium,] are nerer to Sorria or the countryes adioynynge called Syria, than to Russya. For as Hato the Armeniane, in his Tartariane Historye, sayeth, The cyttye of Sara was aunceyently the famous cyttye of the countrye of Cumania ; and the Tartarians obteyned the kingdome of Syria in the yere 1240, whiche must be in the tyme of the fyrst Tartariane emperor called Caius canne, beinge [as I suppose] he whome Chaucer namethe Cambiuscan, for so ys the written copies, such affynytye is there betwene those two names. And, as I gather, yt was after that tyme that the Tartarians had warres in Russia. But I leave yt indifferent at this tyme, as meanyng further to consider of yt.

Surrye or Russye,  
indifferent which.

Carnbuscan is  
Caius canne.

Fo : 31. pa : 2. for these woordes, "that may not saye naye," you reade "there may no wighte say naye." bothe whiche are good, and boothe founde in written coppyes ; and yet the firste will better stande, in my conceyte, because (*the king of Faerie*) there speakinge to his wyfe, he urgethe her that she cannott denye yt ; when he sayeth, my wyfe that cannott say naye,

"That may not  
saye naye," better  
than "there may  
no wighte say  
naye."

as who sholde saye you cannot denye yt because you knowe yt; and experience teacheth yt, so that these woordes, "that cannott saye naye," must be taken as spoken of his wyfes knowledge, and so as good or rather better than "there may no wighte saye naye," consideringe that these woordes "that cannott saye naye," dothe signyfye, "whoe cannott saye naye," in such sorte that this relatyve [that] meanyng [whoe] must haue reference to his antecedente, i. e. this worde wyfe.

Theophraste, not  
Paraphraste.

Fo : 35. pa : 2. For "He cleped yt valerye and theophraste," you saye some wolde haue vs reade "Valery and his Paraphraste." But as you haue left yt at libertee to the reader to iudge, so I thinke yt must nedes be Theophraste; as the author of *Policraticon* in his eighte Booke, ca. 11. [from whome Chaucer borrowethe almost worde for worde a great parte of the Wyfe of Bathes Prologe,] doth vouche yt, for the author of that booke, Johannes Sarisburiensis, lyvinge in the tyme of Henrye the seconde, sayethe, Fertur authore Hieronimo Aureolus Theophrasti liber, de nuptiis, in quo quæritur an vir sapiens ducat vxorem, etc. And the frenche molinet, moralizinge the Romant of the roose in frenche, and turnynge it oute of verse into proese, writeth, Ha si i'eusse creu Theophraste, &c. Oh, yf I had beleved Theophraste, I had never married womanne, for he doth not holde hym wise that marieth anye womanne, be she fayre, foule, poore, or riche; as he sayeth in his Booke Aureolle; whiche verye woordes chaucer doth recyte.

Country, not  
Couentrye.

Fo : 38. pa : 2. for this worde Countrye you will vs to reade Couentrye. But in my writtene copies yt is, "in my Countrye," whiche I holde the truer and for the sence as good yf not better.

Maketh, not  
waketh.

Fo : 41. pa : 1. This woorde makethe is corrected by you, who for the same do place wakethe; whiche cannott well stande, for Chaucers woordes being, "this

maketh the fende," dothe signifye [by a true conuersione after the dialecte of our tonge, whiche with beawtye vsethe suche transmutacione as I coulde gyve you manye pretye instances,] that the sence thereof ys, "the fende makethe this," for whiche Chaucer vseth these wordes by Transpositiōe, [accordinge to the rhetoricall figure Hiperbatone] "This makethe the fende:" Whiche this? Anger: for that comethe, ys made, or occasioned, by the deuell. But yf yt sholde be wakethe, then must the sence bee, that this [whiche is the anger he speakethe of before] wakethe the fende; whiche oure offences cannot do, because he cannot be waked, in that he neyther slumbrethe nor slepethe, but alwayes watcheth and howrely seekethe occasiōe to destroye us, lyke a roringe lyone. But yf you will nedes saye "this wakethe the fende," that is, by conuersione after this manner, "the fende waketh this," whiche signifyeth the fende waketh or styrreth this in manne, yt may, after a harde and over-streyned sorte, beare some sence, whiche yet hath not that energie, sprite or lyfe, whiche haue Chaucers woordes, "this maketh the fende." Whiche woordes are in my written copies, and in all written and auncient printed copies whiche I have yet seene.

Fo: 96. pa: 2. vppon these woordes, "O hughe Hugh of Lincolne. of Lincolne sleyne also, &c." You saye, that in the 29. H. 3. eightene Jewes were broughte from Lincolne, and hanged for crucyfyinge a childe of eight yeres olde. Whiche facte was in the 39. H. 3. so that you mighte verye well haue sayed, that the same childe of eighte yeres olde was the same hughe of Lincolne; of whiche name there were twoe, viz. thys younger Seinte Hughe, and Seinte Hughe bishoppe of Lincolne, whiche dyed in the yere 1200, long before this litle seinte hughe. And to prove *that* this childe of eighte yeres olde and that yonge hughe of Lincolne were but

one ; I will sett downe two auctoryties out of Mathewe Paris and Walsinghame, whereof the fyrste wryteth, that in the yere of Christe 1255, beinge the 39. of Henrye the 3, a childe called Hughe was sleyn by the Jewes at Lyncolne, whose lamentable historye he delyvereth at large ; and further, in the yere 1256, being 40. Hen. 3, he sayeth, *Dimissi sunt quieti 24 Judei à Turri London, qui ibidem infames tenebantur compediti pro crucifixione sancti Hugonis Lincolnæ* : All whiche Thomas Walsingham, in *Hypodigma Neustriæ*, confirmeth ; sayinge, A°. 1255. *Puer quidam Christianus, nomine Hugo, à Judeis captus, in opprobrium Christiani nominis crudelitèr est crucifixus.*

"Where the sunne  
is in his ascen-  
sione," a good read-  
ing.

Fo : 86. pa : 8. [Where the sunne is in his ascen-  
sione, &c.] You will us to reade for the same,

Ware the soone in his ascensione  
Ne fynde you not replete of humors hotte,  
For yf yt doe, &c.

But, savinge correctione, the former sence is good : for these woordes : Where the sonne is in his ascensione, must haue relatione to the woordes of the verse before,

Ye be righte colericke of complexione,

and then is the sence, that she (*the fair Pertelote*) willed hym to purge, for that he was righte [that is, extremelye and in the highest degree] collericke of complexione, where [whiche signifyeth when] the sonne is in his ascentione. Wherefore he must take heede, that he did not fynde hym replete [at that tyme of the sonnes being in his ascentione] of hote humors, for yf he did, he sholde surelye haue one ague. And this will stand with the woordes Where the sonne is in his ascentione, taking where for when, as yt is often vsed. But yf you mislyke that gloosse, and will begyn one new sence, as yt is in some written copyes, and saye, Ware the sonne in his ascen-



tion ne fynde you not repleate, &c. yet yt cannott bee that the other wordes, [for yf yt doo,] canne answer the same, because this pronounne relative [yt] cannot haue relatione to this worde [you] which wente before in this lyne, Ne fynde you not repleate of humors hotte. So that yf you nowe will nedes reade ware for where, yet the other parte of the followinge verse must nedes be, "for yf you doe," and not "for yf yt dooe;" vnleste you will saye that this woorde [yt] must haue relatione to these woordes, [the sonne in his ascentione,] whiche yt cannott have, those woordes goinge two lynes before, and the pronowne [you] interposed betwene the same and that his correlative [yt.] Wherefore these woordes, [for yf yt doe,] must nedes stande as they did before, though you will correcte "Where the sonne &c." and saye "Ware the sonne &c." Whiche yf you will nedes haue, you must correcte the rest in this sorte :

Ware the sonne in his ascentione  
that yt fynde you not repleat of humors hotte,  
for yf yt do, &c.

But this correctiōne (savage, as I sayed, correctiōne) semeth not so good as the former texte.

Fol: 86. pa: 2. Vppon these woordes, [Lo, in the lyfe of Kenelme we reade,] you saye that Kenelme was sleyn by his sister Quenda, whiche sholde be Quendrida; as Williame of Malmsberye and Ingulphus have. Whiche Quendrida dothe signifye Quene Drida; as the author of the Antiquyties of Seint Albons and of the Abbottes thereof [supposed to be Mathewe Paris] dothe expounde yt. for that auctor, speakinge of the wyfe of Offa the greate kinge of Mercia, [a wicked and proude womanne because she was of the stocke of Charles the greate,] dothe saye, that she was called Drida, and being the kings wyfe was termed Quendrida, id est, Regina Drida.

Kenelm slain by  
Queen Drida.

Master Speight  
mistaketh his al-  
manack.

Fo : 87. p : 1. Vppon these woordes of "Taurus was fortye degrees and one," you saye that this place ys misprinted, as well in not namynge of the sygne, as of the misreckonyng of the degrees, that the two and twentye of Marche the sunne is in Aries, and that but eleven degrees or thereaboutes, and hathe in all but thirtye degrees. In whiche, in semyng to correcte the former printe [whiche in truthe deserueth the amende-ment, but not in that order,] you seme to mee to erre, as farre as heauen and yerthe, in mistakinge Chaucers meanyng and his woordes, as well for the daye of the monthe, as for the signe. for where you suppose that Chaucere meaneth the two and twentithe daye of Marche, you mistake yt. for although yt should be the 22 of the monthe, as the printed booke hathe ; yet canne yt not be the 22 daye of Marche, but must of necessitye be the two and twentythe of Aprille : and so the signe Taurus trulye named. But first I must saye, the number of the dayes are misprinted, for where yt is twentye dayes and two, yt must be [and so are my written copies] thirtye dayes and two, whiche must be the seconde of Maye, as you shall well see by the woordes of Chaucer, for whether yowe reckon thirtye two dayes, withe the truthe, as hathe the written copye, or xxii dayes, withe the printe : yet must you begynne to reckon them from after the last of Marche. for so dothe Chaucer, sayinge Marche was compleate, in these woordes :

When the month in whiche the worlde began,  
That hight Marche, when God first made man,  
Was compleate, and passed were also  
Since Marche byganne, &c.

Wherebye you see, that you must begynne to reckon the number of dayes from the tyme of marche compleate ; and then woulde the signe fall out to be in Taurus. Yf you holde you to the printe [for the 22

daye after Marche, which is the 22 daye of Aprill in which the sonne is aboute .xi degrees in Taurus ;] or to the written cotype of thirtie two dayes, [whiche is the seconde of maye at what tyme the sonne ys also aboute some xxi degrees in Taurus ;] the signe is not misreckoned or misnamed, as you suppose. nether canne these woordes, since Marche beganne, helpe you to reckon them from the begynnyng of Marche, [as you seme to doo ;] because they muste answere and be agreable to the former wordes of Chaucer, *whiche sayethe Marche was complete*, and, for that we shoulde not dobte thereof, he addethe also farther, *And passed were also since Marche beganne* ; where the worde beganne ys mysprinted for begonne, that is, since marche be gonne, this word begonne being put for is gonne, or gonne bye, or departed. so that the genuyneill sence hereof is, *When march was complete*, and also were passed, since march is gonne, or gonne by, or departed. for, in many olde inglishe woordes, this syllable [be] is sett before to make yt moore signyficante and of force, as for moone we saye bemone, for sprinckled, besprinckled ; for dewed, bedewed, &c. as in this case for gonne ys sett downe begonne. But although there be no misnaminge of the signe ; yet yt is true the degrees of the signes are misreckoned, the error whereof grewe, because the degree of the signe, is made equall with the degree of the sonne ascended above the Horizon, beinge at that tyme xli degrees in heighte from the Horizon. But to remedye all this, and to correcte yt accordinge as Chaucer sett yt downe in myne and other written copies ; and that yt may stande with all mathematicall proportion, whiche Chaucer knewe and observed there, the print must be corrected after those written copies (whiche I yet holde for sounde till I maye disprove them) having these woordes :

The degrees of the  
signe are misreck-  
oned, not the signe  
itself.

when that the month in whiche the worlde beganne,  
 that hight Marche, when god first made manne,  
 was complete, and passed were also  
 since marche begonne thirty dayes and two:  
 befell that Chanteclere in all his pride,  
 his seven wives walkinge him beside,  
 cast vp his eyen to the bright sonne,  
 that in the signe of Taurus had yronne  
 Twentye degrees and one and somewhat moore;  
 And knewe by kynde and by noone other loore  
 That yt was pryme, and crewe with blisful steven:  
 The sunne, quoth he, is clomben vp on heaven  
 Fortye degrees and one, and moore, ywis, &c.

And that this shoulde be mente xxxij dayes after  
 Marche, and the seconde of Maye, there be manye  
 reasons, besides those that Chaucer nameth; which are,  
 that the sonne was not farre from the middle of his  
 ascentione, and in the signe Taurus. further, since I  
 am now in Chantecler's discourse, I must speake of  
 one woorde in the same, deserving correctione, *whiche*  
 I see you overslipped; and because I thinke you knewe  
 not what to make of yt, [as indede by the printinge  
 . few menne canne vnderstande yt,] I will sett downe  
 the correctione of the same; being the worde *Mere-*  
*turicke*, farr corrupted for *Mercenricke*, in saxon *Meþe-*  
*cenþýke* which is the kingdome of Mercia, for so was  
 Kenelme the sonne, and Kenulphus the father, both  
 kinges of Mercia; the one reigntyng 36 yeres, and the  
 other mured by his sister Quendrida, as ys before  
 noted. And that yt is the kingdome of Mercia, the  
 etymon of the woorde doth teache; for þýk in the  
 saxon tonge signyfyethe a kingdome; meþcen signyfyethe  
 markes or boundes or marches of Countryes. So that  
*Mercenricke* is *regnum Mercia*, or the kingdome of  
 Mercia, or of the boundes so called, because almost  
 all the other kingdoms of the saxons bounded vppon  
 the same, and that lykewise vppon them, since that

*Mereturicke is a  
 corruption of Me-  
 recenrycke, or the  
 kingdom of  
 Mercia.*

kingdome did lye in the middle of England, and conteyned most of the shires thereof.

Fo: 90. pa: 2. for pilloure you will vs to reade Pellure, signifyinge furies. but althoughe the Clergye ware furies, and some of them had their outwarde ornamentes thereof when they came to their service, as the Chanons had their Grey amises; yet in this place, to shewe the proude and stately ensignes of the Clergye, he there nameth the popes crowne, and the Cardinalls pilloures, yf I be not deceived. for euery cardinall had, for parte of his honorable ensignes borne before hym, certain silver pillers; as had Cardinall Wolsey, in the tyme of kinge Henrye the eighte, and Cardinall Poole, in my memory. So that pilloure in that place is better than pellure, because pilloures were a note of more pride and maiestye [against whiche the Plowmanne dothe enveye in those woordes,] than in the weringe of furies.

Pilloures of silver borne before Cardinalls.

Fo: 90. pa: 2. for these wordes, with change of many manner of meates,] you wolde have vs reade, They eate of many manner of meates. Touchinge whiche, althoughe the sence stande well, yet sure Chaucer followeth this matter in many staues together with this prepositiōe [cum, with,] and this coniunctione [et, and;]—as, “With pride misledd the poore, and with money filled manye a male, &c.” so he contynuethe yt still with that prepositiōe, “with change of many meates;” whiche is as good as the other, for euery one knoweth Chaucers meanyng to be that they eate of many meates, when they haue change of many meates; for why sholde they haue change of meates, but for varyetye to please the palates taste in eatynge. In the next staffe, [for myters moe then one or two] you teache vs to reade, “myters they weare mo then one or two;” whiche, methinkethe, nedeth. not. For the wearinge of their myters is included in these woordes,

Liketh best the old reading of “change of many manner of meates.”

And also the old reading of “myters” more than one or two for the sake of the meter.

And myters more then one or two. *Whiche* wordes are curteyled for the verse his cause, that the same mighte kepe an equall proportiōe and decorum in the verse, *whiche* would be lengthened one foote or sillable moore than the other verses, yf your readinge shoulde stande. But yf *you* saye, that in this and other thinges I am overstreighte laced and to obstinatlye bente to defende the former printed editione, in that I woulde rather allowe one imperfecte sence, and suche as must be vnderstoode, when yt ys not fully expressed, than a playne style, I will answere withe a grounde of the lawe, quod frustra fit per plura quod fieri potest per pauciora, and quod subintelligitur non deest. Wherefore yt is nedelesse to make that playner by additiōe of woordes, when yt maye be as well conceyved in any reasonable mens ynderstandinge without such additiōe. But on these and suche petit matters, I will not nowe longe insiste, [being things of no greate momente,] vntill I haue further examyned more written copyes to trye, whether wee shall reade the olde texte or your newe correctione.

The lordes sonne of  
Windsore is in the  
French Romant  
of the rose, but is  
there spelled  
Guindesores.

Fo : 122. pa : 2. The lordes sonne of Windsore.] Vppon these woordes you saye, this maye seme strange bothe in respecte that yt is not in the frenche, as also for that there was no lorde Windsore at those dayes. But yt semeth to me moore strange that these woordes shoulde seme strange to *you*, not to bee in the frenche, where *you* shall fynde them. For thus hathe the frenche written Romante, as maye appere in the old frenche vsed at the tyme when the Romante was composed, in this sorte :

Pris a Franchise lez alez  
Ne sai coment est apelles,  
Biaus est et genz, se il fust ores  
Fuiz au seigneur de Guindesores :

Whiche is thus englished : Next to Franchise went a young bachelor, I knowe not howe he was called, he was fayre and gentle, as yf he had byn sonne to the lorde of Windsore. Where in olde frenche this word fuiz [ysed here as in manye places of that Booke] is placed for that whiche we wryte and pronounce at this daye for filz or fitz, in Englishe sonne. and that it is here so mente, you shall see in the Romante of the Roose turned into proese, moralized, by the french Molinet, and printed at Paris in the yere 1521, who hathe the same verses in these woordes in proese. A Franchise s'estoit prins vn ieune Bachelor de qui ne scay le nome, fors bell, en son temps filz du seigneure de Guindesore. Whiche you mighte have well seene, had you but remembered their orthographie, and that the latyne, Italiane, frenche, and spanyshe have no doble w, as the Dutche, the Englishe, and such as haue affynytie with the Dutche, since they vse for doble w [a letter comone to vs] these two letters Gu, as in Gulielmus, which we wryte Willielmus ; in guerra, which we call and writte warre, in Gualterus, which we write Walter ; in gardeine, which we pronounce and write wardeyne ; and suche lyke ; accordinge to whiche in the frenche yt is Guindesore for Windesore. for your other coniectures, whye that Chaucer sholde inserte the loordes sonne of Windesore, they are of (no?) great momente, neque adhuc constat that Chaucer translated the Romante, whene Windsore Castle was in buildinge. for then I suppose that Chaucer was but yonge ; whereof I will not stande at this tyme, no moore than I will that there was no lord Windsore in those dayes ; althoughe I suppose that sir William Windsore, being then a worthy knight and of great auctorytie in Englande and in the partes beyond the seas under the kinge of Englande, mighte be lord Windsore, of whom the Frenche tooke notice, being in those partes, and by them called seigneure de Windesore,

Master Thynne knoweth not clearly why the Baron should be called of Windsor.

as euery gouernor was called seigneure amongst them. But whether he were a Baron or no in Englande, I cannott yet saye, because I haue not my booke of Somons of Barons to parliamente in my handes at this instante.

The ordale was not tryall by fier only, but also by water, nor for chastity only, but for many other matters.

Fo : 171. pa : 2. by ordall, &c. Vppone whiche you write thus. "Ordalia is a tryall of chastityte, throughe the fyre, as did Emma, mother of the Confessor, or ells over hote burnynge culters of yrone barefotte, as did Cunegunde, &c." But in this describinge definitione, you have commytted manye *imperfections*. first, that ordell was a tryall by fyre, whiche is but a species of the ordell ; for *ordalium* was a tryall by fyre and water : secondlye, that yt was a tryall of Chastityte whiche was but parcell thereof ; for the ordale was a tryall for manye other matters. Thirdlye, you saye yt was by goinge throughe the fyre. when the fyery ordale was onlye by goinge one hote shares or cultores, or by holdinge a hote pece of yrone in the hande, and not going through the fyre. fourthlye, that Emma, mother to Edwarde the confessor, receued this tryall by goinge through the fyre : But she passed not through the fyre as you bringe her for one example of your ordale but passed barefotte vppone nyne burnynge shares, fowr for her selfe, and fyve for Alwyne Bishoppe of Winchester, with whome she was suspected with incontyneneye, whiche historye you maye see at large in Ranulphus Higden, in his *polieronicone* li : 6. ca : 23, and in other auctors ; of whiche ordale I colde make a longe and no commone discourse ; of the manner of consecrating the fyre and water, how yt was vsed amongst the saxons before, and the normans since, the Conqueste, and of many other thinges belonging vnto yt. but I will passe them ouer, and only deliuer to you a thinge knowen to fewe, how this ordale was contynued in Englande in the tyme of kinge Johne, as appereth in Claus. 17. Johis, m. 25, vntill yt was taken awaye by the courte of Rome ;

The fyery ordale was by going on hote shares and cultors, not going through the fyre. The mother of Edward confessor passed over nine burnynge shares.

The ordale taken away by the court of Rome, and



and after that, in Englande, by the auctorytye of kinge after by Henry III.  
 Henrye the thirde, whereof you shall fynde this recorde  
 in the towre Patenta. 3. H. 3. mem. 5, where yt speak-  
 ethe of iudgmente and tryall by fyre and water to be  
 forbydden by the Church of Roome, and that yt sholde  
 not be vsed here in Englande; as apperethe in the  
 woordes of that record: *Illis vero qui mediis criminibus*  
*vectati sunt, et quibus competeret iudicium ignis vel aque*  
*si non esset prohibitum, et de quibus si regnum nostrum*  
*abiurarent, nulla fieret postea, maleficiendi suspitio, reg-*  
*num nostrum abiurent &c.*

Fo: 246. pa: 1. speaking of the storke, you saye  
 that Chaucers woordes "wreake of adulterye" shoulde  
 rather bee "bewrayer of Adulterye;" whiche in truth  
 accordinge to one proprietye of his nature may be as  
 you saye, but according to another proprietye, of his  
 nature, yt sholde be "the wreake of Adulterye," as  
 Chaucer hathe; for he ys a greater wreake of the  
 adulterye of his owne kynde and female than the  
 bewrayer of the adulterye of one other kynde, and of his  
 hostesse one the toppe of whose howse he harborethe.  
 for Aristotle sayeth Bartholomeus de proprietatibus  
 rerum li: 12. cap. 8. with many other auctors, that yf  
 the storke by any meanes perceve that his female hath  
 brooked spousehedde, he will no more dwell with her,  
 but stryketh and so cruelly beateth her, that he will not  
 surcease vntill he hathe killed her yf he maye, to wreake  
 and revenge that adulterye.

The storke bewray  
 eth not adultery  
 but wreaketh the  
 adultery of his  
 owne mate.

These and suche lyke in my conceyte are worthye  
 to be touched in your Annotacions, besides other mat-  
 ters whiche you haue not handled; whereof [because  
 tyme requirethe after all this tedious treatyce to drawe  
 to one ende] I will not now treate; but onely speake  
 a little moore of fyve especiall thinges, woorthye the  
 animadversione, of which the fyrste ys, that you make  
 the Plowmans tale to go next before the persons tale,

The plowman's

tale is wrong  
placed.

suffering the persons corrupted prologue to passe with this begynnynge, "By that the plowmanne had his tale ended," when all written copies, [whiche I coulde yet see,] and my fathers editione, haue yt, "By that the mancypyle had his tale ended." And because my father colde not see by any Prologues of thee other tales, [whiche for the most parte shewe the dependancye of one Tale vppone one other,] where to place the plowmans tale, he putt yt after the persons tale, whiche, by Chaucers owne woordes, was the laste tale; as apperethe by the persons prologue, where the hooste sayethe, that "euery manne had tolde his Tale before." So that the plowmans tale must be sett in some other place before the manciple and persons tale, and not as yt ys in the last editione.

Chaucer's proper  
works should be  
distinguished  
from those adul-  
terat and not his.

One other thinge ys, that yt would be good that Chaucers proper woorkes were distinguyshed from the adulterat and suche as were not his, as the Testamente of Cressyde, the Letter of Cupide, and the ballade begynnynge "I have a ladye whereso she bee," &c. whiche Chaucer never composed, as may sufficientlye be proved by the things themselves.

There were three  
editions of Chau-  
cer before  
William Thynne  
dedicated his to  
Henry VIII.

The thirde matter ys, that in youre epistle dedicatorye to Sir Roberte Cecille, you saye, "This Booke whene yt was first published in printe was dedicate to kinge Henrye the eighte." But that is not soo. for the firste dedicatione to that kinge was by my father, when diuerse of Chaucers woorkes had byn thrise printed before; whereof two editions were by William Caxtone, the firste printer of Englande, who first printed Chaucers Tales in one columne in a ragged letter, and after in one colume in a better order; and the thirde editione was printed, as farre as I remember, by Winkin de Worde or Richarde Pynson, the seconde and thirde printers of Englande, as I take them.\*

\* Caxton, 1475—1481-2. *Wynkyn de Word*, 1495—1498.

Whiche three editions beinge verie unperfecte and corrupte occasioned my father [for the love he oughte to Chaucers learnynge] to seeke the augmente and corrections of Chaucers Woorkes, whiche he happily fynysshed; the same being, since that tyme, by often printinge much corrupted. of this matter I sholde have spooken first of all, because yt is the first imperfectione of your paynfull and comendable labors: Yet because the proverb ys better late than never, I hold yt better to speake of yt here then not at all.

The first editions beinge very corrupt, William Thynne augmented and corrected them.

The fourthe thinge ys, that, in the catalogue of the auctors, you haue omittted many auctors vouched by chaucer; and therefore did rightlye intitule yt, moost, and not all, of the auctors cited by Geffrye Chaucer.

Master Speight hath omittted many auctors vouched by Chaucer.

The fyfte matter ys in the Romante of the Roose, fo. 144, that the worde Haroldes in this verse,

It should be Harlottes, and not Haroldes.

My kinge of Haroltes shalte thou bee,

must, by a mathesis or transpositione of the letters, be Harlotes, and not Haroltes, and the verse thus,

My kinge of Harlottes shalt thou bee

And so ys yt in the editione of Chaucer's Works, printed in anno Domini 1542, accordinge to the frenche moralizatione of Molinet, fo. 149. where he is called "Roye des Ribauldez," whiche is, the kinge of Ribaldes or Harlottes or evill or wicked persons; one officer of great accompte in tymes paste, and yet vsed in the courte of France but by one other name, in some parte beinge the office of the marshall of Englande. All whiche, because you shall not thinke I dreame, [though yt may seme strange to the ignorant to have so greate one officer intituled of suche base persons as to be called kinge or gouernor of Ribauldes,] you shall here Johannes Tyllius [in his seconde booke de rebus Gallicis vnder the title de Prefecto pretorio Regis] confirme in these woordes: In domesticis regum con-

The king of Ribalds or Harlottes, an officer of great accompt in times past.

Johannes Tyllius maketh mention of a Rex Ribalorum.

stitutionibus, quos proximo capite nominavimus, fit mentio Regis Ribaldorum, officii domestici, quem semper oportet stare extra Portam pretorii, &c. and a litle after the explanyng of their office, he addeth; "sic autem appellantur, quia iam tum homines perditū Ribaldi, et Ribaldæ mulieres puellæque perditæ vocantur. Regis nomen superiori aut Iudici tribuitur," Quemadmodum magnus Cubicularius dicitur Rex Mercatorum," &c. Where he maketh the "Regem Ribaldorum" an honorable officer for manye causes, as Vincentius Luparius in his fyrste booke of the Magistrates of france doth also, vnder the title of "Rex Ribaldorum et provostus Hospitii;" makinge the Iudex pretorianus and this rex ribaldorum or provostus hospitii to seme all one, addinge further [after manye other honorable partes belonginge to this office] that "meretricibus aulicis hospitia assignare solebat." In whiche pointe, bothe for orderinge and correctinge the harlottes and evill persons followinge the Courte of Englande, [whiche is the duty of the marshall,] the frenche and wee agree. Wherefor, touching that parte, you shall heare somewhat of the Marshalls office sett downe and founde in the Customes, whiche Thomas of Brothertonne [sonne to kinge Edwarde the fyrste] challenged to his office of Marshalcye; where, emongst other thinges, are these woordes: eorum [whiche was of the marshalls deputyes executinge that he shoulde ells do hym selfe] interest virgatam à meretricibus prohibere, et deliberare, et habet, ex consuetudine mariscallus ex quâlibet meretrice communi infra metas hospitii inventa iiij<sup>d</sup>. primo die. Quæ, si iterum inventa in Ballinâ suâ inveniatur, capiatur; et coram seneschallo inhibeantur ei hospitia Regis et Reginæ et liberorum suorum, ne iterum ingrediatur, &c. And so afterwarde shewethe what shall be done to those women, yf they be founde agayne in the Kinges courte, in suche sorte, that, as by Tillius, this

Also Vincentius Luparius maketh him an honourable officer.

The Rex Ribaldorum was like unto our Marshall. The Marshalls duties and his powers over Harlottes and lost men.

Rex Ribaldorum his auctorytye was over homines perditos, mulieres puellasque perditas. And that yt was, by Lupanus, to assigne to Ribaldes lodginge out of the courte, [for so modestye willeth vs to vnderstande, because they shoulde not offende and infecte the courte with their sighte and manners,] so ys yt our Marshalls office, to banyshe those harlottes the courte, and bestowe them in some other place, where they might be lesse annoyance. Wherefore I conclude with the frenche, and the former editiōne of Chaucer in the yere of Christe 1542, that False Semblance was of righte to be made kinge of Harlottes, and not of Haroldes, who wolde mightely be offended to haue them holden of the conditions of false semblance. Nowe here be nugæ in the Romante of the Roose, I cannott [as the proverb ys] take my hand from the table, [fyndinge so manye oversights in the two last editiones,] but must speake of one thing more, deserving correctione, in these woordes of the Romante, fo. 116 of the last impressiōe :

Master Thynne  
being a herold  
liketh not that  
false semblance  
should be thought  
one.

Amide saw I hate stonde,  
That for wrathe and yre & onde  
Semed to be a minoresse ;

Where this worde Minoresse shoulde be Moueresse, signyfyinge a mover or styrrer to debate, for these be the frenche verses in the oldest written cōpye that euer was [to be founde in Englande, yf my coniecture fayle me not,] by the age of the frenche wordes, which are these :

Hate was a  
Moueresse or  
styrrer of debate,  
not a minoresse.

Enz euz le milieu vi hayne,  
qui de courouz et datayn  
Sembla bien estre moueresse,  
et courouse et teucerresse.

Beinge thus englyshed, as of righte they oughte, accordinge to the frenche :

Amyde sawe I hate stonde,  
That of wrathe and yre & onde  
Semed well to be mooveresse,  
An angry wighte and chyderesse.

Molinet calleth  
Hate a Ducteresse,  
or leader.

Whiche woord mooveresse the learned molinet, in his moralizatiōe of that Romant, dothe turne into Ducteresse, a leader or leadresse, so that they agree yt shoulde not be a minoresse, but a mooveresse or leadresse of and to anger and yre ; anye of whose woordes will as well and rather better fytt the sence and verse of Chaucer, and better answer the Frenche originall and meanyng, than the incerted woorde Minoresse.

Thus hooping that you will accepte in good and frendlye parte, these my whatsoever conceytes vttered vnto you, [to the ende Chawcers Woorkes by much conference and many iudgmentes mighte at lengthe obteyne their true perfectione and glory, as I truste they shall, yf yt please godde to lend me tyme and leysure to reprinte, correcte, and comente the same after the manner of the Italians who have largely comented Petrarche;] I sett end to these matters ; comyttinge you to god, and me to your curtesye.

Clerkenwell Greene,

the xvi of december 1599.

Your lovinge frende,

FRANCIS THYNNE.

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